



SPECIAL EDITION

50th Anniversary

1971-2021

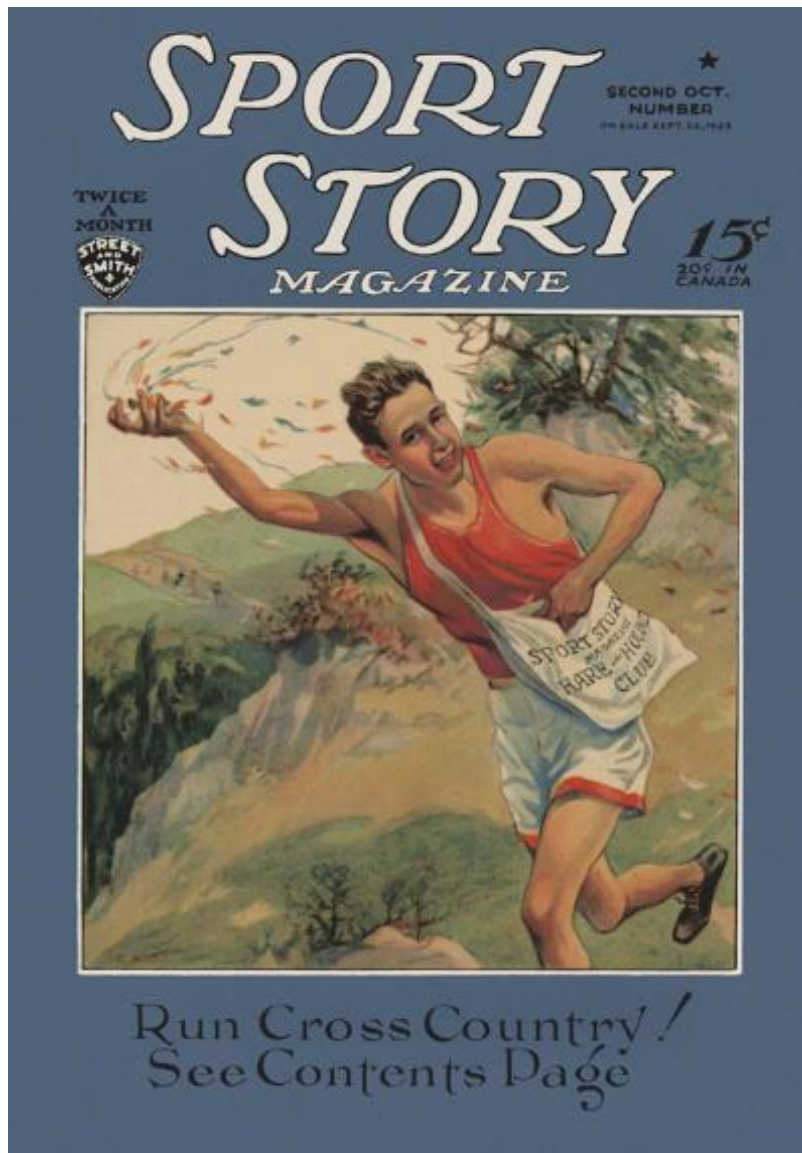
In the Spotlight – United States of America

By Ed “Hazukashii” Howell

4 July 2021

This edition of *In the Spotlight* commemorates the 50th anniversary of hashing in the United States of America. It is dedicated to all those lucky bastards that found the hash early on, loved it, and took it to new places around the world. Highlighted in the pages that follow, you will see how the eccentric sport of hashing arrived and spread throughout this country. Through a series of vignettes, history unfolds for the first 20 hash clubs founded in the US in the 1970s. Originally, only 19 appeared in the Hash Genealogy, but a 20th club was discovered during my research.

Although the first Hash House Harriers (a.k.a. HHH or H3) club founded in the US was not until 1971, historically, Hare & Hounds Clubs were briefly popular in the US in the 1920s, as shown on this Sport Story Magazine cover from Oct 1929.



Bordered by Canada to the north, and Mexico to the south, the United States is the third most populated country (behind China and India), and fourth in total land mass (half the size of Russia, but only slightly smaller than Canada and China). In the world of the Hash House Harriers, the US embraced this activity and has formed more clubs than any other country. The US also currently has the most 'active' clubs at over 280. As you read through the accounts below, you will see four common threads, of how hashing came to this country, much like the rest of the world . . . Brits, Rugby, Diplomats, and/or the Military. There are also tales of chance meetings, that helped get some of these clubs from ideas . . . <dramatic pause> . . . to reality.

The seeds for this article were planted in the summer of 2020, after several invites (or rather sarcastic badgering, but Mr J is still tops in my book) to visit the Rumson H3. I finally made the pilgrimage to hash in New Jersey last October, and it was well worth the trip. In my discussions with Mr. J, he commented that the Rumson H3 was the third or fourth oldest hash club in the US (a belief, I found out while researching, that was held by several clubs). So, I scanned the HHH Genealogy and discovered something a little different. A few more months passed, and after conducting a much more in-depth investigation, I was able to uncover new names, dates, and additional details, further distilling the history of the early days of hashing in the US. Let's begin, shall we.

#1 – Fort Eustis H3 (Virginia) - 1971

The first documented hash club in the US is the Fort Eustis H3, running their first trail on 8 November 1971, and founded by Major Frank Arnold. Frank came to the US on assignment with the British Forces, having previously hashed with the Longmoor H3 in the United Kingdom. As shown in old documentation, Frank meticulously [planned](#) and [executed](#) the first hash in the United States, in South Eastern Virginia. The planning included an explanation of the “cries” that would need to be learned, and used while running trail:

“ON ON” Used by leading hounds who have picked up the trail and are urging the rest of the pack to go that-way.

“BACK BACK” Means that the leading hounds have booped and are following a false trail.

“TO ME” Signifying, “I’m lost and/or in trouble and I’m going to stay where I am shouting [my] head off until someone comes to my aid.”

“BOAGA” “Bugger off and go away, I’m up to something, or someone, and the last thing I want is to be found!!”

Frank’s write up of the first trail summed it up this way:

HASH I

With a complete disregard for superstition, thirteen members showed, but this didn’t worry our enlightened band – particularly as none of us counted heads! Two late arrivals joined the pack during the hash. Dress could be described as mixed, and we ranged from formal – fatigues and field jacket (Ric Hawley) to athletic – football outfit (Dennis Ivan). The prize for the best dressed Hasher would undoubtedly go to Pat Delavan who set a new peak in practical elegance in his Russian hat, check shirt and overalls. Frank Babiasz also scored heavily in his tee-shirt with H3 on it.

The course was through the woods bordering Eustis Lake, on the roads around Eustis Lake, and over the pipe trestle across Eustis Lake. There were suggestions that it might be simpler for some Hashers to merely walk across the water, but that was attributed to sheer jealousy – and in any case your Joint Masters weren't in the mood!



Hares (Bob Duvic and Ernest Runge) laid a devious trail and were never in any real danger of getting caught. The woods soon echoed to happy cries of "ON ON" – on one occasion in three different directions at once. However, we followed through and H3 was conveniently positioned by the Rod and Gun Club. Nourishing liquid was provided . . .

. . . Bill Broderick came in rather late, but looking remarkably fresh and relaxed. There were no cries of BOAGA heard, but one wonders....

Details for Hash II were settled without undue coercion or persuasion and we're off again on the 15th [November 1971].

While I was an active member of the Ft Eustis H3 from 1993-1996, there was a bit of disagreement that raged between the FEH3 and the second oldest hash club, as to which was

first. A gentlemen's agreement was eventually reached, once sufficient evidence was provided. Then the argument became which was the longest 'active' club, with claims that FEH3 had some dark years with no trails. HONSEC at the time, Cold Cuts, conducted an extensive review of all the hash records and confirmed that FEH3 had consistently hashed since 1971 . . . despite all the evidence that has been presented, the rivalry continues, but all in good fun . . . as it should be. The [Ft Eustis H3](#) still runs weekly on Saturday afternoons, in the South East region of Virginia, and will soon be running their 2500th hash trail. So, who is that second oldest hash club in the US? Let's move on and see.

#2 – District of Columbia H3 - 1972

The second oldest hash club was founded by the infamous William 'Tumbling Bill' Panton. Bill ran his first trail with Mother Hash in 1954, as a British expat working abroad. Ironically, he was too busy with other activities to make running with the hash a priority. It would not be until 1958 when Bill returned to hashing, and fully embraced his future life as a hashing icon. After becoming a regular participant, and learning the ways of the hash, Bill eventually was selected Joint Master (as vice president) for Mother Hash in 1963, and then again (as president) in 1970.

If you refer to article 15, as outlined in the [original rules](#) drafted for the Hash House Harriers in 1950, the top leadership in the club (the President and Vice President), were referred to as Joint Masters. After completing his tenure as President of Mother Hash, Bill (by now working for the World Bank), was transferred to Washington, DC. Obviously unaware that just 150 miles to the south of Washington, the Ft Eustis H3 had already been hashing for the previous 6 months, Bill made the following announcement:

Washington, D. C., the place where modern history is made, will be in the news once again this coming weekend, when, at precisely 5 p.m. on the evening of Saturday, May 27, [1972] the unsuspecting natives and nomads of Bethesda, Maryland, will be privileged witnesses of an earth-shattering event—the inaugural run of the WASHINGTON, D.C. HASH HOUSE HARRIERS.

The Hare will be Bill Panton, a recent emigrant from the ancient east with a pronounced penchant for cutting corners, and the trail will be marked by chalk arrows at infrequent intervals. Each check will be denoted by a one pace diameter circle. Rules will be determined through free discussion, and hopefully amicable agreement, during the subsequent refreshment session.

After several years in the US, Bill was transferred to Thailand, where he would go on to found another historic hash club, the Bangkok H3 in 1977. While in Washington though, Bill continued to travel and hash in many places. This was when he began what would become his life's obsession, [reaching out](#) and compiling a list of all other hash clubs around the world. That list is now called the [HHH Genealogy Project](#). Having discussed the HHH Genealogy with Bill on

several occasions, and sharing his passion for the details, I became a [Trustee](#) of the [Hash Heritage Foundation](#). Now retired, I have recently coordinated with Neil Campbell, and we have updated nearly all of the 3000 hash clubs currently listed in the Genealogy, keeping Tumbling Bill's legacy alive. We have successfully adding several hundred logos, website URLs, and additional information to make the display more user friendly, and improving the quality of the content. Any updates are welcome.

Back to the DCH3, this is how Bill described the first trail that had a modest turnout of 5 hashers.

Run No. 1. Well, well, well -- the Paunch Corps has nothing on us. Washington obviously needs the HASH. Perhaps, it will prove to be the salvation of the American Male. Just what his hulking, flabby, house-bound, car-cosseted, alcohol-soaked body needs in the way of a New Style Happy Hour.

Who knows? With initials HHH, we may even have our own candidate in the 1976 Presidential Primaries. --

Anyway, we did actually run -- at least some of us did -- for a short while, that is. So it counts as No. 1, and from this point on we just couldn't fail to improve, or can we? Progress reports will be issued from time to time, and meanwhile the management is actively looking for a work-hungry medico to assume the post of Honorary Doc.

The floundering -- sorry, founding -- fathers on this memorable occasion numbered five, and everyone completed the course. This is considered a most noteworthy achievement under the circumstances, and just for the record their names were: Ralph Wadsworth, Doug Gold, Chip Rowe, Brian Gray (who established a double as the first visiting Hashman from Djakarta to the Washington, D.C., HHH) and Bill Panton. The names of Tedd Osgood and Reese Riezebos, who were unavoidably detained elsewhere, are added to this role as Hon. Founders.

This course, exact distance 4.1 miles, was mainly along suburban roads, but took in a section of Wisconsin Avenue -- during what appeared to be a specially arranged Saturday evening rush hour -- and the carpark-studded grounds of the National Institutes of Health. A small section of poison-ivy infested jungle between the Capital Beltway and the Linden Hill Hotel provided a more authentic atmosphere for the traditionalists.

The trail, which covered an undulating course, was marked by chalked directional arrows on hard surfaces, mostly pavements, and by Giant All-Purpose White Flour in places where the going was softer. Experience indicated that the flour trail is the easier to lay (a 10 lb bag should be more than enough for an average run) and it should be more acceptable to the general public, who incidentally appeared remarkably tolerant of the un-American goings-on, by virtue of its bio-degradable character.

Checks were moderately frequent and the pack kept bell bunched throughout the course. The running pace can be generously described as medium-slow, while the drinking rate was good-average but was abruptly terminated owing to late evening engagements on the part of most runners.

The DCH3 is still a men only hash that runs weekly in the greater Washington, DC area, which includes Maryland and Northern Virginia. Some of the traditions I recall from a handful of visits include that, trails are often hosted out of the hare's home, where they provide the associated post trail refreshments. Only members may attend, but members are allowed to invite guests. There are no fees for guests to attend, but we were encouraged to bring a 6-pack of beer as tribute to the hare.

#3 – Little Rock H3 (Arkansas) – 1974

The Little Rock H3 was the third hash club to form in the US, and the first to be founded by an actual American, after the British invasion that brought both the Ft Eustis H3 and DCH3. Hugh Robinson first started hashing in South Korea on 23 May 1973, while assigned to the United Nations Command / US Forces Korea, in Yongsan (a suburb of Seoul). He started running with the Seoul H3 which was less than a year old at that time, having been founded on 11 June 1972. Much of what he explained to me about hashing in Korea was still the same when I was a member of the [Seoul H3](#) in the 90s. Traditions, the glue that holds it all together.

Hugh ran his last trail in Seoul on 9 March 1974, when he was reassigned. He said in the 10 months of hashing, he had only missed 5 trails, all specifically due to work requirements. Heading off to his new assignment, Hugh said upon departing Korea, he “really swallowed the hook” when he read in the Hash Trash that the DCH3 had formed in the US, and included the contact info for Bill Panton. Returning to the US, Hugh was assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base as the Chief of Military Personnel. This is his recollection of founding the Little Rock H3 . . .

Once settled in, I could consider starting a Hash. I was running daily from the base gym and had a locker next to a pilot who was a much better runner than I could ever hope to be. I told him about the Hash and asked where I might meet other runners. He replied that he often ran Friday evenings at the North Little Rock High School football stadium track where runners gathered informally and organized races of various lengths.

The next Friday I went to the school. As I entered the stadium the first person I encountered wore union jack patterned shorts, spoke with a funny accent, and gave his name as Bob Rooke. I started my spiel about the Hash and my interest in starting a club in the area. After about a minute, Bob replied, “ON ON.” Bob, English and a mining engineer, had come to Little Rock from Kuala Lumpur and running with the Mother Hash to work in an Arkansas bauxite mine.

Talk about miracles. We agreed to combine forces and talked up the Hash with the other runners and got their contact information. I placed an announcement in the [base] weekly newspaper inviting participation. I set the first run out of my house on August 19, 1974. About ten runners showed up and both Bob Rooke and I ran with the pack to explain checks and how to deal with false trails.

In attendance was Dave Roeber, the pilot I first spoke to in the locker room; William Priddy, a college cross country runner; Jim Martin, who had started running later in life for health reasons; and another pilot and a couple of Air Force attorneys who had responded to the newspaper invitation. I was especially pleased when over a post-run beer, Jim Martin asked, "When is the next Run?" Bob Rooke would set the next [trail] a week later.

Building a membership was a struggle. The running craze was in its infancy and Little Rock was not exactly in the forefront of the effort. And, I was determined to keep it as an all - male Hash as were most of the other clubs I was aware of. The Washington D.C. HHH I had learned was all male. We accepted high school and college age runners, a father and son duo, and continued to recruit from whatever audience expressed interest. More than once we ran with six runners including co hares. We ran every week. Slowly the membership increased and by the end of 1974 Bob and I were no longer setting monthly runs.

Hugh highlights a very familiar story about the trials and tribulations of starting a new hash, that at times it was a struggle to keep things going with low turnout and membership. This also ends up forcing one to do most of the planning, haring, and work on a weekly basis. His persistence finally paid off though, with Hugh saying he eventually felt comfortable . . .

. . . in October 1976 when Steve Hughes and Jeff Hart stepped in. For the first time, I felt we were a going concern with reasonable numbers, new members joining, and others willing to step up and take over management. It became time for me to fully turn over the reins after four years at [Little Rock Air Force Base]. My last run with the club happened to be its 200th run on July 3, 1978. Bob Rooke who teamed up with me in starting and maintaining the club was still there along with enough of the old guard to make the Hash a going concern. But not as an all-male club.

Hugh went on to talk about the fact that the running craze was in full bloom, and soon ladies would discover "the joys of hashing, and the Little Rock H3 continued to flourish as a mixed club." Hugh then mentioned that he departed Arkansas in July of 1978, and eventually made his way to Texas. A new hash club, the Alamo H3, was being formed and he was "recruited as a charter member . . . a couple of years after moving to San Antonio." Hugh went on to say . . .

The [Alamo H3] was coed from the start, and I ended up as its ON SEC. I was a charter member, but was unable to run the first six events given a recovering broken ankle. My records show that the inaugural run that I attended on crutches and in the rain was on May 30, 1981.

We struggled to maintain enough members and interest through 1981 and 1982 as many of our members were military and were subject to reassignment. I received orders in late 1982 sending me to Andrews AFB in Maryland in the Washington D.C. suburbs. I continued to receive copies of the Alamo Hash Trash after arriving at Andrews AFB. The last one I have is for run number 47 on March 20, 1983. The ON SEC's write-up bemoaned poor attendance. Run number 48 was announced for March 27. I did not receive a copy of its Hash Trash. Evidently, the club folded then or soon after.

Arriving in Washington, DC in February of 1983, Hugh immediately joined the DCH3. Eventually retiring from the Air Force in 1988, he has remained in the DC area, and continues to hash with the DCH3. According to their website, the [Little Rock H3](#) is still active and runs every Wednesday and Sunday, and has completed over 2400 hash trails.

#4 – Laurel Highlands H3 (Pennsylvania) - 1975

The Laurel Highlands H3 was founded in August 1975 by E. Gustav 'Gus' Taylor. Although this hash club is no longer active, I was able to track down 'Folker' who began his hashing career with them in 1983. Folker stated that . . .

They hashed on an irregular schedule, maybe once a month or less. It was a Men Only hash club, and I ran about a dozen times with them . . . they referred to Gus as "the King". The others didn't have hash names . . . the core group consisting of about a half dozen engineers who worked at the Westinghouse lab at Waltz Mill.

Folker then discovered the Pittsburgh Hash, after receiving an invite to their 100th run anniversary in June 1984, and subsequently became a regular with the Pittsburgh H3. His last ran with the Laurel Highlands H3 was in 1986, but concluded with . . .

Westinghouse closed the Waltz Mill facility when they went out of the nuclear reactor business, and I presume the core members got relocated. I never heard from them again.

#5 – Jog-In Running River Rats H3 (California) - 1975

This next club is shrouded in mystery. When Tumbling Bill was amassing his club listings for the hash genealogy, he collected any and every scrap or detail about clubs, and entered them into the file. The Jog-In Running River Rats H3 are believed to have started sometime in 1975, founded by Larry Mathews, possibly around Yuba City. According to the HHH Genealogy, it is the first hash club to form in California, but there are no further details available. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has more details on this club.

#6 – Boston H3 (Massachusetts) - 1976

The city of Boston was next to get their own hash club, when Robert 'Prince Variant' Wood arrived in 1976. Originally working as a foreign diplomat for the government, he ended up back in the nation's capital in the mid-70s, and spent some time hashing with the DC Men's hash. Changing careers, he moved north to Massachusetts and took hashing with him. He created the Boston H3, setting the first trail on 1 February 1976.

According to the [Boston H3 website](#), they “typically hash on Wednesday evenings in the warmer months and Sunday afternoons in the cooler ones. But there are loads of exceptions.” Switching run days from weekdays in the summer, to weekends in the winter, was more common back in the 80s and 90s. Over time, many clubs have settled on just one day, but the Boston H3 continues this semi-annual tradition. Prince Variant would only stay a couple years in Boston, before moving on to Wisconsin, and subsequently founding hash club #7.

#7 - Madison H3 (Wisconsin) - 1977

Departing Boston and arriving in Madison, Prince Variant did not waste any time in convincing some new friends and work associates to help establish yet another new hash club. I reached out to some of the Madison hashers to gain some insight, and Ed Hutchins offered up that Prince Variant was assisted by Peter 'Socks' Senzig, Lee Wilcox, Dwayne 'Pisser' Berg, and a few others, who teamed up to create the Madison H3 on 1 November 1977. Since Madison is a college town, there were many young co-eds to join in on the fun.

The [Madison H3](#) originally hashed on Tuesday, but after some due consideration, moved to Saturday afternoons, and have done so ever since. Ed also informed me that Lee Wilcox was vice chancellor of admissions at the University of Wisconsin at the time, but moved a few years later to Rochester Polytechnical Institute, and then on to Georgia Tech.

#8 – Philadelphia H3 (Pennsylvania) - 1977

Another DC Men’s hasher is credited with founding the 8th club in the USA. Jay 'Hard Core' Gore, as he was known at this time, founded the Philadelphia H3 on 3 December 1977. Willie, a long time DC hasher, who has been a wealth of knowledge for me when I have questions about their former members, told me he “was actually the hare for Jay’s first hash, probably around May 1976.” The Philly Hash is no longer active, so it was a bit difficult getting details, but former Philly hasher 'Hareass' was able to tell me that . . .

Jay Gore was a Princeton University grad who played rugby & moved down to DC after college, where he started hashing with the DCH3. After he moved to Philly for his job . . . Jay called a bunch of rugby players in Philly and asked them if they wanted to hash. The “Ten Who Dared” showed up . . . and the Philly Hash started.



Less than two years after founding the Philly Hash, Hard Core moved to Houston for work, and more hashing. The Philadelphia H3 later hosted the third [InterAmericas' Hash](#) in 1987.

#9 – New York H3 - 1978

Hash legend Ian Cumming is credited with founding the New York H3 on 21 January 1978, but in his own words, the actual founders may have been . . .

Chuck and Barbara Woodhouse had recently returned from a tour of duty with State Street Bank in Singapore, where they had run with the Harriettes, closely allied to the [Singapore H3], an all-male Hash. Closely allied means the GMs slept together on a regular basis. They were determined to continue Hashing and contacted [me], sometime founder and running-dog of the [Singapore H3] and they planned the first New York run.

Apparently, weather conditions in January at that latitude has no comparison to weather in South East Asia, where Ian experienced a different sort of hashing in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Ian described the first trail as . . .

For convenience [trail] started from the Woodhouse home. Charley laid the trail the day before marked with paper strips and paper plates on the ground. It snowed 8 to 10 inches in the night and we immediately recognized that there were conditions under which Hashing worked better in the tropics than in our climate. With the cunning of a fox, Charley re-laid the trail starting at the end using paper plates pinned on trees. This ruse was most effective for the first hundred yards, but after that, marks were superfluous; the pack followed the backwards footprints in an outright race for the beer.

On the other hand, many long-time hashers know that if not for Ian Cumming, there may never have been another hash club . . . ever. Ian's exploits of founding 'Father Hash' ([Hash House Harriers Singapore](#)) in 1962 are also well documented. His explanation of conversing with the original Hash in Kuala Lumpur, while organizing the second HHH club set the stage for the worldwide phenomenon that the [Hash House Harriers](#) have become.

Long time Hash Flash for the New York H3, 'Whichaway' had the following to say:

Ian, coming from traditional hashing, did not believe in live Hares. NYH3 had no nicknames, no circle or other beer-time consuming ceremonies, other than full participation in singing. He insisted that nearly all starts be at railroad stations. The rationale behind this, he said, is related to the low IQ of NY Hashers and their inability to read maps or follow written directions. He did however believe in Hash Haberdashery and had a hand in some memorable garb but it was always a mistake to put an item through the wash or leave it unattended!



Ian Cumming



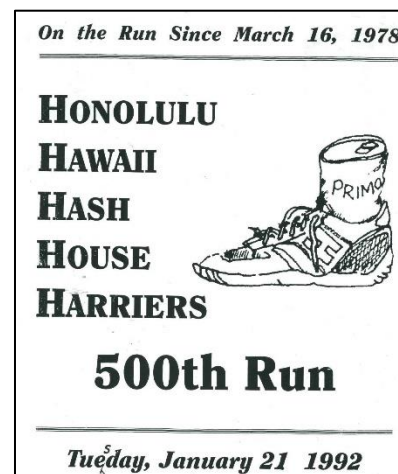
150th Run in June 1984 – New York H3

The New York H3 has mostly faded into history, but is occasionally resurrected for special events.

#10 – Honolulu, Hawaii H3 (H5) – 1978

The 10th hash in the USA, also the first hash in the Hawaiian Islands (outside the continental US) was the Honolulu, Hawaii Hash House Harriers (H5), founded by Castel “Cass” Myers on 16 March 1978. Located on the island of Oahu, the H5 ran their first trail from what was then the Hee Hing Chop Suey shop in Kapahulu. Cass began hashing with the Bangkok H3 in Thailand, where he had been working. Once back in Hawaii, all it took was to gather up some friends (Russ Hoylman, Hutch Hutchinson, Dave Benson, and Dick Hoyer) and a new era was born.

The H5 ran every other Tuesday evening in the early days, shifting to weekly runs sometime in the mid-1980s, but the trail has always been the focus. According to Cass, “the after run fun was more of a collected horseplay than an organized circle. Beer chugging was a common event, with winners collecting various prizes. The prize once was a live chicken, which ended up as a menu item at the Chop Suey shop.”



At one point around 2006, although he had not hashed in many years, I had the opportunity to meet Cass shortly before he passed. I had just finished haring the trail near the Pali Highway, and he was sitting under a tree with a brown paper bag next to him. He introduced himself and offered me a beer, which I gladly accepted. Unfortunately, it was in a brown bottle, and a mother close by called the police about us drinking in a public park (very frowned upon in Hawaii). When the police officer arrived, he started to ticket us for drinking in public, but another hasher named Māhū, who just happened to be a police officer (commonly referred to as the HPD, or Five-O, after the hit [television series](#) back in the 60s and 70s), called him off and they let us go. Very lucky for me, as it may have affected my career at the time.

The H5 was the second hash club I had ever run with in 1991, and where I first met Jim ‘Bimbo’ Edens, who would go on to create the famous ‘Harrier Magazine.’ Over the past 30+ years of living on and off in Hawaii, I have run almost 500 of the 2000+ trails recorded by this club. The H5 has never really had a GM or Hash Master, but local legend Dwight ‘Hard On On’ Jackson mismanaged the circle as the Religious Advisor for over 25 years. I had big shoes to fill when I stepped in to follow up Hard On On as the RA. I did that for three years before I departed Hawaii, with my final project being the lead organizer for the 40th Anniversary of Hashing in Hawaii, which included a [commemorative program](#) filled with vignettes of early hashing in Hawaii. The [H5](#) still runs weekly on Tuesday evenings, on the island of Oahu.

#11 – La Jolla H3 (California) - 1978

The La Jolla H3 was founded by Joe ‘Poppa Doc’ Curray on 15 May 1978. Although I could not find his name on the membership roster, Poppa Doc ran with Mother Hash at some point in 1977, bringing the concept of paperchase and drinking beer to the San Diego region of California.

According to Carolyn ‘Caro-Lion’ Glockhoff, one of the longest running members of the La Jolla H3, Poppa Doc differed in his approach from Mother Hash. He insisted in making the La Jolla hash a mixed club, so that men and women, both young and old, could participate. Unable to use shredded paper to mark trail as he had seen in Kuala Lumpur, the La Jolla H3 initially used popcorn. Finding that approach unsustainable due to wind and weather, and those pesky seagulls, they quickly found flour and chalk to be a much better alternative.

As a professor of Geology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, he advertised his new running club to staff and students, as well as other local beach runners. The trails normally finished on campus, in a small parking lot, “where the Hon-Sec or his co-hare’s car was stocked with a cooler of cheap beer. Word of the next run was typically via inter-office correspondence.” Caro-Lion also mentioned that . . .

Eventually a weekly newsletter (the Hebdomadal) was produced as a mimeographed hand-written, later Xeroxed typed carbon-copy; then finally mailed to anyone supplying a self-

addressed pre-stamped envelope. By the time of their 300th trail in 1984, the pack was "between 40 and 50 dues-paying members; fees being collected quarterly by a self-designated Hash Cash. Beer was supplied by an Honorary Purveyor (later Biermeister) possessing a key to the Mud Core locker (beer storage) room.

The [La Jolla H3](#) still runs weekly on Monday evening, in Southern California, between Oceanside and the Mexican border.

#12 – Rumson H3 (New Jersey) - 1978

Founded by Keith Kanaga, with the assistance of Gil 'Mr. J' Jackson, the Rumson H3 dates back to 20 May 1978. Keith started hashing in May of 1972 with Mother Hash in Kuala Lumpur. After learning the ways of the hash, he eventually became On-Sec in 1975, and then a Joint Master in 1976. Keith moved back to the US in 1978, and was settling into northern New Jersey when he met Gil Jackson, who was an avid runner in the area. One day Keith mentioned a running club he had been part of back in Malaysia, and asked Gil if he could reach out to his fellow runners to help him organize a new club in the area. Despite being drafted in 1956 and serving 2 years overseas, Gil had never run a hash before, but was enthusiastic if beer was involved. Thus, began the legend of the Rumson H3.

While chatting with Gil, he claimed that he believed the Rumson H3 was the third or fourth oldest club in the US. After a little research, I gave him the news. Although they are the "Hell's Angels of Hashing," they come in at number 12 for hash clubs in the US. Just as Keith had experienced while hashing back in Malaysia, Rumson still does not hold a circle nor sing songs, and has no formal ceremony of any kind.

After my first visit, I published an article on the Rumson H3, and mistakenly made the comment about them being the "self-proclaimed" Hell's Angels of Hashing, as they proudly wear on club T-shirts. That, and "Boldly Going Nowhere." It was not long before the witty Rumson Hasher, 'Elephant Dick' corrected me, responding on Hash-L . . .

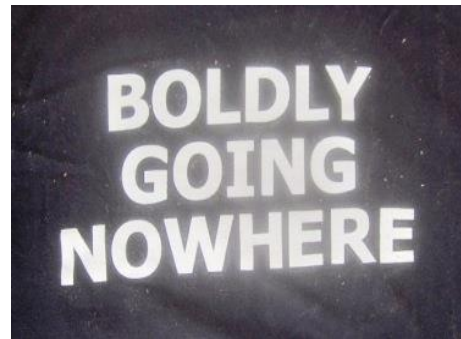
We didn't name ourselves The Hell's Angels of Hashing. We were at a minor interhash in South Jersey, and got into a beer-chugging exhibition. After Philly's chug they chanted "We're Number One". Then the late Lunar Don of Rumson (he Never got to a hash on time) did his trick of picking up a heavy glass beer mug with his teeth, no hands allowed, and chugging it. Philly immediately started chanting "We're Number Two", and someone said "You guys are the Hell's Angels of hashing", and that stuck.

Not to be outdone, Mr. J also chimed in . . .

Haz, Thank you for hashing with us. We rarely get visitors except from local hashes. I think it might be that we are a rowdy group which your report debunked, or that we are not a welcoming bunch which could not be further from the truth. That reputation might go back to

our early years when we had a rule not to talk or even acknowledge a New Boot until their third visit.

Elephant corrected you on the "self-proclaimed" Hell's Angel motto. Let me correct him. It was included in a written report from a Philly hasher reporting on a hash we had with Philly. An incredibly wild event where we certainly earned the title. The next week I went to a sports shop, we designed the logo, and the same place has been printing them for almost 40 years.



While you were with us you seemed so laid back and relaxed, but you remembered all of the good stuff. Thanks for your generous [report about Rumson](#) . . . I am a bit skeptical of your list of Active hashes. I plan to devote a major part of the few years I have left to challenge it.

Mr J . . . Honors to you my friend, but does THIS analysis provide sufficient evidence of Rumson's historic notch on America's belt?

The Rumson H3 also does not give hash names, but some members have acquired nicknames as a matter of course. Gil (a.k.a. Mr J) is also known as 'The Chaplain' and claims to be the oldest active hasher (86 years old) in the US, and that Rumson has the oldest average aged pack in the country, at something like 68 years. He may very well be correct, but that claim got us started on the typical old man conversation of comparing scars. Going around the assembled grizzly pack, one had just gotten a new shoulder, another had a knee replacement, others have had various heart related surgeries (like myself), and a busted hip or two. And yet, they still hash every Saturday, precisely at 10:17 AM.

#13 – District of Columbia Harriettes - 1978

All the hash clubs in the US to this point were founded by men, and likely started out as men only clubs, with some of them eventually transitioning to mixed participation. The first club started by a woman, and only for women, is the 13th oldest hash in the country. Only one day after the Rumson H3 started, and on the same weekend, the District of Columbia Harriettes were founded by Naoe Hiruta Gallelo, on 21 May 1978. According to their website, the [DC Harriettes](#) were founded as a female-only kennel, but became a co-ed kennel in the early 1980s

and was renamed to the **DC Harriettes and Harriers H3** (DCH4). Their slogan is “The hash where Harriettes are always on top”.

As a flight attendant for Cathay Pacific, Naoe was an avid hasher who ran with the Hong Kong Ladies H3, before arriving in Washington, DC. As a known hasher, Naoe was invited to run with the DC Men’s Hash as a guest of 2 members, hoping to meet new friends. Once it was discovered that she was more than a temporary visitor, Naoe was no longer welcome at DCH3. Being an avid runner, and one tough cookie, having no club to run with disappointed her to no end. One day while complaining to her landlord and housemate, who was an entrepreneur, he encouraged her to start her own club, based on the international model she knew and loved.

Taking matters into her own hands, she quickly moved to start her own hash club, and the rest is history. I first ran with the DCH4 in 1997, and it was explained over beers that soon after the Harriettes changed to the DCH4, allowing men in, it became the club for young hashers, where running was not the only thing that was fast. After several relationships bloomed, by the mid-90s the DCH4 became the family hash, after all the hook ups produced offspring, and they were changing diapers and pushing carriages.

The DCH4 can still be found running every Saturday afternoon, in the [greater Washington, DC area](#), where you can run every day of the week with a vast assortment of hash clubs.

#14 – Chicago H3 (Illinois) - 1978

Number 14 on this list belongs to the Chicago H3, founded by another Brit, Guy ‘Sir Guy of Guy’ Woodford, who worked for Standard Charter Bank of England. Although the [Chicago H3 website](#) states the CH3 extends directly back to Mother Hash in Kuala Lumpur, I spoke with Sir Guy of Guy and he told me that “I have never run in KL!!” Guy first found the hash in Singapore, running with the Singapore Men’s Hash in 1969. He enjoyed it so much, he was keen to assist John Beavon found the Hong Kong H3 in 1970. Moving on to his next assignment in Iran, Guy founded the Tehran H3 in 1975 with two Aussie mates Ian Linderman and Karl Henne, who he still meets up with for an annual Iran reunion dinner. That means Chicago H3 goes back through Iran, to Hong Kong, and Singapore, before connecting to Mother Hash in KL.

By 1978, Guy was in Chicago, and with the assistance of Alfred Zbinden, he founded the Chicago H3. As the story goes, and explained on their website, Guy was the president of Chicago Griffins Rugby Football Club, and invited the Griffins to attend what he called a picnic and fun run in a local forest preserve. So, on 19 June 1978 at Harms Woods Forest Preserve, several Rugby players showed up. Guy informed the gathering what they were about to do, and there would be beer at the end. That’s all it took; a new hash club came into existence. After finishing his assignment in Chicago, Guy spent 5 years in New Jersey, hashing with the Summit H3, and occasionally with the Rumson H3. Guy now lives back in his native United Kingdom.

I also chatted with George 'Chicken George' Houde, who was on the Chicago Hash in the early days, and still lives in the area. He confirmed the details above, and also added that . . .

The Chicago Hash has spawned several others in the area, so it has grown. The CHHH was rather small 10-15 runners until I wrote a story about it for the Chicago Tribune in 1984. We had 50 hounds at the next hash and they stuck around and took over from the rugby disorganization.

The Chicago H3 hosts 3 big events each year. The 'Memorial Day' run kicks off the summer, then the 'Power of the Pussy' hash celebrates everything that the ladies of the Chicago Hash House Harriers bring to the table, and as such is completely organized by the ladies. The final event, according to their website, is 'Anthrax' that they enjoy around Christmas time. Back in 2002, the Chicago H3 managed to shut down several square blocks surrounding Lincoln Park in a biohazard scare. The pack dresses up in hazmat suits and Santa hats, and bops around the city much like a red dress run. The yearly Anthrax weekend event is by far the biggest draw of the year and attracts hashers from all over the country.

#15 – Dallas H3 (Texas) - 1978

There was not much information available about the Dallas H3, the HHH Genealogy reflects that it was found on 1 October 1978, by Dewey 'Pockets' Dethrow. I chatted with long time Dallas hasher Dub 'Beaver Breath' Hirst who has been on the Dallas H3 for well over 30 years, and he confirmed the information contained in the genealogy. I was also able to confirm from the old Singapore H3 membership files, that Dewey hashed with the Men's hash in Singapore, from 1973 until May 1976.

While digging through some old newspaper articles in my library, I found one of interest that predated the whole HazMat / Anthrax debate that festered around 2001. In 1993, the Dallas H3 was the suspect of a potential 'hate crime.' The following article appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Monday, February 22, 1993.

No hate intended – Runner says club spread flour trail

Runners club spread flour at black complex to make trail, man says

By Nancy St. Pierre // Staff Writer of the Dallas Morning News

Delbert Hirst of Arlington 'fessed up Sunday. He was one of the white males seen spreading "white powder" Saturday throughout a predominantly black apartment complex in Old East Dallas. He doesn't see anything wrong with it. He does things like that most weekends in similar areas of Fort Worth. He sees it as harmless fun.

Some people in Dallas, including police, were baffled by the mysterious action. The Police Department began investigation the incident as a possible hate crime. "I was shocked so

much was being made out of it,” Mr. Hirst said Sunday. “I guess it just shows how sensitive things must really be over there when it comes to racial issues.”

Mr. Hirst, 40, is part of an international “social” running group called the Hash House Harriers. The Dallas-Fort Worth chapter meets Saturdays, often to enjoy a human version of “the hare and the hound.” Police said Saturday that they were investigating the powder spreading as a hate crime “because the white males did this in Roseland Homes, which is predominantly black.”

Police also sent out samples of the powder for testing. If Mr. Hirst is correct, the lab will find it is a substance common to kitchens and supermarkets: flour. The runners use it to make their trail. The runners’ fun turned serious Saturday, when residents of the apartments at 2100 North Washington Avenue told police that they thought Mr. Hirst and two other men were committing a hate crime.

Residents described the men as “skinheads” because of the “way they dress and because their heads were shaved,” according to a police offense report. The men put the powder in the grass, around the base of a tree, inside a tire where children play and in a tunnel area, residents told police. The men also handed beads to children and spread more powder on a nearby playground. Residents told police that they believed the men were skinheads trying to poison children.

If that behavior wasn’t strange enough, the men ran “through the complex chanting as though they were worshipping some type of god,” the report read. One man even carried a shrunken head, residents told police. The Hash House Harriers act that way on purpose to blow off stress, Mr. Hirst said. They sometimes dress in outlandish costumes and run through neighborhoods, wooded areas and other parts of town to spice up their daily running routine.

“We can run on the street anytime,” he said. Mr. Hirst was one of three “hares” who scoped out a trail for the “hounds” to follow Saturday. The hares were leading the group of 21 runners to the Mardi Gras parade on McKinney Avenue. To mark a trail for the hounds to follow, the hares use flour to mark X’s and other signs so that runners know they are on the trail, Mr. Hirst said.

As for the skinhead look, two hares had military-style haircuts because they are National Guard members, Mr. Hirst said. The third man is balding naturally. The chanting that was reposted was from runners yelling, “On! On!” to let stray runners know they were not on the trail and “Check!” when they reached a mark on the trail distinguishing a checkpoint, he said. The shrunken head, it turns out, was a mannequin’s head that one runner carries as a token. All members in the group have nicknames. The head-bearing runner, of course, is “Deadhead.”

“We like to go to places we don’t normally go,” said Mr. Hirst, an Arlington landscape architect, “People usually avoid places and are afraid of areas where a lot of black people live. We weren’t. He said the group has run through the Como neighborhood in Fort Worth, a

predominantly black section of town, as well as similar areas in east Fort Worth. "And they love it," he said. "They laugh and think it's a parade because we're all dressed up."

As the Hash House group ran through Roseland Homes on Saturday, some runners handed children Mardi Gras beads as a gesture of friendship, Mr. Hirst said. "I was incredulous that an innocent group like ours would get that kind of reaction," Hash House member Robin Doglio said. "It really underscores the racial tensions in Dallas."

Detective Stan Southall said the explanation sounds plausible, but the department's Intelligence unit will continue to investigate to make sure Mr. Hirst's story checks out. "I'm not surprised of the conclusion jumped to by everybody, given the recent past history of events," he said. "But the story did make my day."

In the end, all was well, and hashing continued in the Dallas and Fort Worth area. Running every other week, according to [their website](#), the Dallas H3 alternates with the Fort Worth H3 on Saturday afternoons. One other item Beaver Breath was able to provide, was the original club logo, and the current logo.



1978 - ORIGINAL



1988 - CURRENT

#16 – Alamo H3 (California) - 1979

The Alamo H3 (not to be confused with the former Alamo H3 in Texas, founded in 1981), was named after a small but affluent suburb on the east side of San Francisco, and was founded on 29 April 1979 by Dave Davis. In researching this club, I reached out to an old friend, Tom 'Dr. Kimble' Berns, who is a prominent hasher in the San Francisco area. He provided me with a letter dated 19 July 1979, where the founder had [written back to Mother Hash](#) to notify them of his new club. In the HHH Genealogy, this club is traced directly back to Mother Hash, but based on the way the letter is phrased, it does not appear he had actually hashed there. In the letter, Dave politely explains to the prolific John Duncan, who had reached out to one of the other hashers, that . . .

I wish to notify you that I have recently established the Alamo Hash House Harriers. I am presently serving as the Grand Master with the Joint Masters, On-sec and Hash Cash yet to be named.

Note that he identifies himself as the Grand Master. The first documented use of the term Grand Master (GM) was in 1974 when HHH Singapore appointed Albert Withnall as GM, above the Joint Masters. So potentially, Dave had hashed in Singapore. Dave then states . . . and this is where it was discovered there was a hash club missing from the genealogy . . .

My wife Brenda Davis has started the Alamo Harriets and is serving as their Grand Master.

Dave then makes a bold prediction that, due to the qualities of the region, the greater San Francisco area could one day support “2 or 3 Hashes.” His predictions proved true, as there are currently 5 active hash clubs in the greater Bay area.

Dave goes on to say . . .

We have located a few ex-hashers from Jakarta, Singapore, Surabaya, Bontang, Hong Kong and Washington. They along with several area runners should give us a nucleus of at least 30 in the Alamo HHH.

#17 – Alamo Harriets (California) - 1979

As mentioned in the proceedings of the Alamo H3, the formerly unrecorded Alamo Harriets have been added to the HHH Genealogy, and to this auspicious historical review. The founder being Brenda Davis, who it is not clear had ever hashed before. Based on the founding date of the Alamo H3, and the date on Dave Davis’s letter, the founding date for the Alamo Harriets has been recorded as sometime in late April 1979. At the time of this writing, no further details on this ‘second’ all female hash club in the US, have been discovered.

At some point, the Alamo H3 changed their name to the **East Bay H3**. We can only surmise this was done to extend the parameters of the club to a greater audience in the region. Another possibility is that the Alamo H3 and Alamo Harriets merged, and the name was changed to add synergy to the expanded membership. Either way, the [East Bay H3](#) is still active in the Bay area, and runs every other Sunday afternoon.

#18 - Houston H3 (Texas) - 1979

Jay 'Hard Core' Gore is back in the count down. After a couple years in Pennsylvania, where he founded the Philadelphia H3 in 1977, he moved to Texas, and on 21 May 1979 founded the 18th oldest club in the US, the Houston H3 (a.k.a. H4). According to the [Houston H3 website](#), he was

known as Jay 'Captain Lewd' Gore while hashing in Houston. To get a better understanding of the Houston H3, I consulted Stephen 'Geek' Gardner, who is one of only a handful of hashers to ever participate in over 2000 hash runs with a single club. Geek told me that "Jay was more known as a rugby player" and after he graduated from Princeton, he founded the Princeton City Rugby Club.

Jay eventually made his way to Washington, DC, where he worked and continued to play rugby, and began his hashing life with the DCH3. As previously described, he founded the Philadelphia H3 in 1977. Geek also informed me that "Jay was transferred to Houston working for Arthur Anderson auditing KRB, played rugby with the Old Boys RFC then founded H4." He also mentioned that, after only a year, Jay returned to Pennsylvania, but not to Philadelphia. This time near his hometown, and founded the Pittsburgh H3 on 14 June 1980. All three clubs he founded were mixed, and he supplemented club membership from his rugby teams. Jay has long since retired from playing rugby and hashing, and has settled down outside Chicago to focus on family life.

#19 – Waukesha H3 (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin is home to yet another of the earliest Hash House Harriers clubs. With the Madison H3 firmly established in 1978, South African native Ian Plane founded the Waukesha H3 on 1 Aug 1979. Ian had previously hashed with the Melbourne H3 in Australia, the Durbin H3 in South Africa, (and probably Singapore H3 from the looks of the logo used on his hash letter), before his job with Nicholas Laboratories brought him to Wisconsin. Initially making the 65-mile drive west over to the Madison H3 to get his hashing fix, he eventually decided to start a new club closer to home in Waukesha, located on the western edge of Milwaukee. Ian also managed to get an article in the local newspaper, the Waukesha Freeman. Here he is posing with a couple of his prize T-shirts from his travels.



(Freeman Staff photo by Allen Fredrickson)

Ian Plane of Genesee Town, who would like to start a local chapter of the Hash House Harriers, displayed commemorative T-shirts from the club's big outings in other lands.

Waukesha Freeman – Friday, July 20, 1979

The first run was on a Wednesday, but the runs shifted to Monday evenings the next week to avoid clashes with other running clubs in the area. The first couple of [weekly hash letters](#), (note the logo in the upper right corner) the first one passed out at the inaugural run, included the following . . .

HASH HISTORY

Of course there have been no previous runs in Waukesha to write about, but a weekly feature of the HASH letter will be a crucial description of the previous week's run with all the dirty details of who did what. This is always an interesting feature although it will probably never agree with your views of the run!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Next week's HASH Letter will be worth all the free beer you can drink after the HASH'S 50th run, so remember to keep it. Also do your running friends a favor [and] put their names on the mailing list now.

In the second hash letter, Ian's description of his haring prowess, and writing prowess for that matter, he explained:

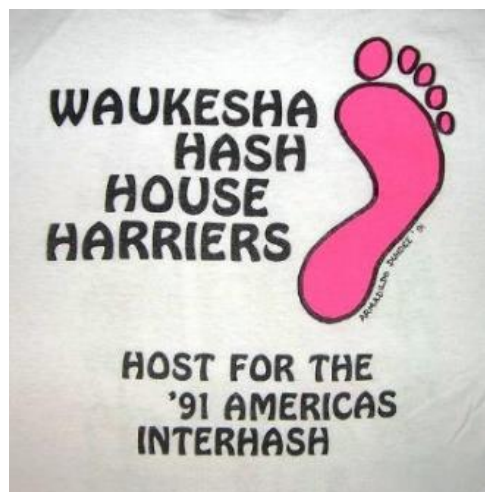
The run took just an hour and judging from the amount of beer consumed afterwards, it had served its purpose of working up a thirst (note the reference to one of the [objectives](#) from the Mother Hash registration card of 1950). To criticize my own run is difficult but the false trails were a little long for the size of the pack at times, but this will be solved as the pack grows in size. Come on let's see more of you out there next Monday.

The second hash letter had a caption for VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE that stated . . .

This letter will be worth all the free beer you can drink at the celebration of the 50th run. (A traditional time to celebrate). Keep it in a safe place. (But added the caveat) You must produce it to claim the beer!

The Waukesha H3 hosted the fifth InterAmericas' hash in 1991.

They are still active, and according to their website, [Waukesha](#) Hashes on the First and Third Saturdays. Runs start at 3:00 PM (April thru October) and at 2:00 PM (November thru March). Full Moon Hash the night of the full moon each month at 7:00 PM.



#20 – Princeton H3 (New Jersey)

To close out this list of US based hash clubs that formed in the 1970s, we go back to New Jersey. The Princeton H3 was founded on 10 October 1979, by Joe 'Hop-along' Burns. Hop-along was introduced to hashing at the Medan H3 in Indonesia, while serving with the Peace Corps. According to their website, the [Princeton H3](#) . . .

. . . is a cross-country run/treasure hunt where the stash is a cooler of beer, soda and chips. We cover 3-4 miles in roughly an hour, following a devious trail of cooking flour through the woods in search of the elusive beer and some fun. It's really a great adventure and the trail is devious enough that everyone stays together in a group, the lamest runner such as myself can keep up with marathon runners no problem and competitiveness is completely and totally frowned upon.

Long time Princeton hasher, Dan 'Wacko' Wachspress, informed me that Hop-along is “in the process of retiring from his job as a Dean at Boston College. Was in Medan in Peace Corps and brought hashing at first to students at Princeton University and soon community members joined, and took over.”

The Princeton H3 is still actively hashing, on the second Sunday of the month.

	Hash Club	Founded
1	Ft Eustis H3	8 Nov 1971
2	District of Columbia H3	23 May 1972
3	Little Rock H3	19 Aug 1974
4	Laurel Highlands H3	31 Aug 1975
5	Jog-in Running River Rats H3	31 Dec 1975
6	Boston H3	1 Feb 1976
7	Madison H3	1 Nov 1977
8	Philadelphia H3	3 Dec 1977
9	New York H3	21 Jan 1978
10	Honolulu, Hawaii H3 (H5)	16 Mar 1978
11	La Jolla H3	15 May 1978
12	Rumson H3	20 May 1978
13	District of Columbia Harriettes	21 May 1978
14	Chicago H3	19 Jun 1978
15	Dallas H3	1 Oct 1978
16	Alamo H3	29 Apr 1979
17	Alamo Harriets	30 Apr 1979
18	Houston H3	21 May 1979
19	Waukesha H3	1 Aug 1979
20	Princeton H3	10 Oct 1979

Epilogue

Once hashing arrived in the US in 1971, it would take 6 ½ years for the first ten clubs to form. Within 18 months the next ten formed. Club growth continued to accelerate throughout the remainder of the century, eventually raising the US to top of the chart for number of hash clubs. Since there are 34 US based clubs listed without a founding date in the genealogy, and possibly other clubs that have yet to be discovered, the following numbers are close approximations. There were 137 new clubs founded in the 1980s, 268 new clubs in the 1990s, 144 in the 2000s, and only 25 since 2010. As mentioned, the number of clubs missing a founding date has been reduced to just 34, guess what my next project is. In total, there have been [over 625 clubs](#) founded in the US, of which over 280 of them are currently still active. Cheers to all the founders, and Happy 50th!

I would like to thank all those hashers that contributed information. I also could not have written this treatise, without the contributions of a few other hashers that may not have been specifically mentioned in the text. Special thanks go out to Gopher of the Ft Eustis H3, Willie, and John Akers of the DCH3, Patrick Hyde and Virginia Slim of the Singapore H3, Fuk Stick of the Pittsburgh H3, Tight Lips of the Philadelphia H3, and Neil Campbell and Ted Quirk of Mother Hash. My apologies to anyone I may have missed.

For many more articles like this on the history of hashing, check out . . . [In the Spotlight](#).

