

# The Seattle Cascades 60th Anniversary, June 1966 - 2026

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The first generation of Seattle Cascades in the 1960s are now in their 70s and those of the 1970s are now in their 60s. What happened to the time? 50 and 60 years later most of us are still here. So is the corps. Amazing.



Back in the early 70s the Cascades still had members who started in 1966. We still had Thunderbird (TB) Cadet members, too. We didn't know it at the time, but we did. Back in the early 70s I had never heard of a TB Cadet. I knew who Jack Avery was and saw him at practice, sometimes with his

Grenadier (senior corps) buddies in tow, but I had no inkling of Cascade / Thunderbird history nor his place in it.

Today we will avoid the deep dive into the Seattle Cascades' 60-years of history and concentrate on high-level biographies of their founding fathers, Rod Stubbs and Jack Avery instead. If you want to read detailed Cascades formation history, please go to the August 2021 edition of this publication.



Jack Avery was born in November 1918 in Miami, FL. He marched in a local Florida drum

corps from 1932 to 1935 and played in his college band (trombone) through 1938.

During WWII he was a B-17 bomber pilot. After the war he marched with the famed Harvey Seeds Rebels Senior Corps (right) out of Miami. In 1948, he moved to Seattle, joined the Seattle Hurricanes Senior Corps (top right) started a family and created the Greenwood Boys Club (GWBC) D&BC in February 1958. They changed their name to the Seattle Thunderbirds in early 1960.

Mr. Avery started the Greenwood Boys Club corps when his eldest son was old enough to join and enjoy the drum corps experience. Jack Avery and Rod Stubbs started the Thunderbird Cadets (the TB feeder corps) in 1963. In the fall of 1965, they were implored by a majority of the TB Cadet parents to start a new corps separate from the Thunderbird organization.



Jack Avery - Front-Left Wearing White Hurricanes Director 1948 - 1964





**Thunderbird Cadets  
March 1965**

Roderick Rod<sup>®</sup> Stubbs was born in January 1914 in Wisner NE, and grew up in Nebraska, Idaho and Washington. His first job after graduating from Spokane College (WA) in 1937 was the principal of the only grade school in Thornto, WA.

That school had only three teachers on staff, one of the three was Mr. Stubbs, as the principal, and one of the other two was his mom, Barbra Stubbs. Small-town America at its best!

Mr. Stubbs joined the Navy in 1944 and served in the Landing Craft Infantry (LCI). The LCI boats provided close-in fire support using machine guns, rockets and mortars; softening-up enemy defensive positions on shore prior to our troops storming the beach.

After the war, he moved to Shoreline (north of Seattle) and landed a job as a principal in the school system there. Mr. Stubbs got his youngest son, Garth (left), involved with the GWBC D&BC in 1959. Mr. Stubbs was the co-founder and manager of the 1966 Cascade Cadets and, after 1972, was the director and manager of the Seattle Cascades for the next 23-years.

Garth (left) was with both the Thunderbirds (as a snare 1959 to 1965) and Cascades (percussion instructor 1970 to 1995). He

is the corps' elder statesman these days, teaching corps history to the members and instructors alike. He's their link to the past and their touchstone to the future.

He has spent his life teaching school district kids during the fall and winter months, and drum corps kids in the spring and summer months. He was always teaching somebody something. My patience isn't that expansive. His is unlimited. Garth is a third-generation educator. His grandmother and father were both educators as well. It's the family business after all.

The Seattle Cascades have survived for quite a while, probably through persistence, stubbornness and just dumb luck. They've had good years like making DCI Finals in 2002, and not-so-good years, but they're still here, too bullheaded to give up.

I'm sure that Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Avery would be pleased to learn that their drum corps has reached the ripe old age of 60 this year.

Congratulations to the Seattle Cascades, their members past and present, their supporters and to the drum corps community to which we all belong.

Long Live Drum Corps!

Jack and Rod agreed. Two-thirds of the TB Cadets joined the new corps, and in June 1966 the Cascade Cadets were born with Mr. Avery as co-founder and director.



**1967 Cascade Cadets**



**1959 Garth Stubbs 1965**



**June 17, 2025  
Garth Stubbs Teaching  
Seattle Cascades' History at  
Corps Camp**

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Turn the page to see a collection of images following the corps' history from 1960s to the present . . .



**Roderick Stubbs  
1935**



**1958 Greenwood Boys Club  
Drum & Bugle Corps  
Seattle, Washington**

*Jack Avery  
Founder/Director*



*ca1961 Seattle Thunderbirds.  
Garth Stubbs*



**Seattle Thunderbirds - May 1960**  
*Jack Avery, Founder - Left*



**1967 Cascade Cadets**



*1968 Cascade Cadets  
Still Marching with the Thunderbird Cadets' old Drums*



**1972 Seattle Cascades  
with one of their  
Thunderbird Cadet Drum Majors**



**1977 Seattle Cascades  
Suspicious bell player on the right...  
is that Garth??!**



**1978 Seattle Cascades in Sheridan, Wyoming**  
*Rod Stubbs, center*



**1984 Seattle Cascades  
at Whitewater Wisconsin**



*Drum Corps International  
World Championships 1998*



**2002 DCI Finals Retreat  
Seattle Cascades - 12th Place**



**2016 Seattle Cascades at DCI  
50th Anniversary  
1966 - 2016**



1966 - 1969



1970 - Mid 1990s



Mid-1990s and beyond



**Rod & Lucille  
What a great couple!!**