



# A Day in the Life of an Accounting Firm

## **Ross Buehler Falk is not your typical accounting firm.**

We're a firm that's close-knit. We love to have fun but we're serious about our work. We're a mix of Millennials, Gen Xers and Baby Boomers and we love to celebrate the good news of our team members. Birthdays, Wedding Showers, Baby Showers, the end of Tax Season – for us, those are all reasons for a break in the day – complete, of course, with food and dessert. Or, sometimes just dessert!

Here are comments from our team members about their work days at RBF:

### **– Sean Smith –**

#### **How did you get interested in Accounting:**

My undergraduate degree is in Criminal Justice and I was working as a police dispatcher for Princeton University when I got out of college, but I couldn't see a future

in that. I had taken one accounting course in college and liked it, so I decided to go back to school and get my Master's and thought I could really make a career out of accounting.



*Sean Smith*

My studies were challenging but it was also rewarding because accounting is like solving a puzzle and everything balances out and it's very satisfying when that happens. I went on to study for my CPA exam, got my license, and then my wife and I moved to Lancaster City from New Jersey.

#### **Best Thing about Tax**

**Season:** It is a lot faster paced and longer hours, and yes, some stress. But there's a sense of camaraderie

#### **RBF Services:**

##### **Accounting and Auditing Tax Services**

##### **Management Consulting Services**

- Accounting Systems
- Business Acquisitions
- Business Startups
- Business Process Improvement
- Financing
- General Business Counsel
- Succession Planning
- QuickBooks

##### **Personal Financial Counseling**

#### **Industry Experience:**

##### **AgriBusiness Services**

- Egg Processors
- Farming Operations
- Fertilizer Producers
- Food Processors
- Silo Manufacturers

##### **Construction Industry Services**

- Aluminum and Glass Contractors
- Bridge Contractors
- Building Supply Companies
- Commercial Building Contractors
- Drywall Contractors
- Landscaping Contractors
- Masonry Contractors
- Mechanical Contractors
- Plumbing Contractors
- Residential Building Contractors
- Steel and Iron Fabricators

##### **Healthcare Services**

- Assisted-Living Facilities
- Continuing Care Retirement Communities
- Healthcare Foundations
- Home Care Nursing Associations
- Hospital Authority
- Individual & Group Medical Practices
- Medical Billing Services
- Nursing & Rehabilitation Centers
- Personal Care Facilities
- Pharmaceutical Distributors
- Pharmacies
- Sub-acute Facilities

##### **Manufacturing Industry**

- Tool and Die
- Fabricators
- Mold Extrusions
- Snack Food
- Packaging
- Aluminum Siding
- Glass and Glazing
- Industrial and Automotive Tools





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during tax season because we're all going through it together and doing our best work for our clients. It also gives you the opportunity to have a lot more face time with clients, which I really enjoy. We're helping them solve their problems.

## **Funniest thing at RBF:**

Here's something funny to share – we have these four inch rubber snakes in the office and no one knows where they came from. Whenever someone finds one they hide them in someone else's office space and personal belongings. One time I hid one in someone's printer and it took her three months to discover it. The other day I found one that was behind a picture frame and I went to move the frame and the snake dropped out. Now, one is missing and we haven't seen it for about a year and a half. So the hope is that we haven't accidentally given it to a client!

**The Culture at RBF:** It's tighter knit than a lot of firms. On day one you're on a first name basis with the managing partner and everyone else in the firm. We're not overly formal. We clean up nice. It's a fairly relaxed environment and we are very comfortable with one another.

**Most Unusual Project:** I can't say there is only one unusual project, but what I really love is the variety of businesses we work with. It's so interesting to go to

clients' businesses and see what they make and how they do their work. We have clients in manufacturing, construction, healthcare and agribusiness who are all making products that we, as consumers, rely on but we never think about them. It's amazing to see the incredible variety of clients you can work on as a CPA.

## **– Cindy Barr –**

**What got you interested in accounting:** I took an Intro to Accounting Class in my senior year in high school. It was really just basic bookkeeping, I really liked it and was doing well in it. The teacher came up to me one day and asked if I ever thought about going into accounting in college. I was planning on being a business major but after that conversation, I began looking into accounting as a major. I ended up at Elizabethtown College as an accounting major.

**Best thing about tax season:** When it is over 😊

**Funniest thing at RBF:** A former client brought his tax info into the office in a designer shoe box, then asked for the box back because it was his wife's and she would be upset that he took it. Another client had a habit of bringing in their info in interesting containers. Once a wash basket, the next year, a pizza box – one of those

sturdier ones that you used to get when kids sold pizza kit fundraisers at school.



*Cindy Barr*

**The culture at RBF:** Overall, the majority of the time it is easy going.

**Most unusual project you've worked:** Client year-end physical inventories are always interesting. From climbing up and down ladders, looking in train boxcars and truck trailers, to counting perishable items in freezers or taking pictures of cattle, to weighing the tiniest items or electronic parts on special scales – you weigh 10 bolts, then pour the rest on the scale and it projects a count based on what the 10 weighed – all interesting and unusual projects.

## **– Mary McDevitt –**

I am a new member at RBF. I started in January, so this was my first full tax season in the public accounting field. I am graduating this May with my Master of Accounting degree, and I have already passed all four sections of the CPA exam. All I need is work experience before I can apply for my CPA license in PA.



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**What got you interested in Accounting:** I became interested in accounting during high school because I enjoyed working with numbers and I had a wonderful high school accounting teacher who inspired and challenged me. My uncle was also working in the accounting field, so I always went to him with questions and for guidance.



**Mary McDevitt** I almost fell out of accounting senior year of high school due to a disappointing career day discussion with two accountants who did not want to be there. I went to college undecided and had no idea what to major in. One day, my mom said to me, "How about accounting?" I signed up for my first college accounting course sophomore year and four and a half years later I am graduating with my Master of Accounting degree from Cabrini University.

**Best part of Tax Season:** I do have to agree that the food (especially the ice cream) is the best part of tax season. RBF's tax season was a little different than other tax seasons I have experienced. I think the people make it better here.

**Funniest Thing at RBF:** One of the funniest moments I can remember was when Matt got back a big picture of his face on top of a bank confirmation (it was a blown up picture from his email). He was laughing so hard that day that just thinking about it makes me laugh.

**The culture at RBF:** Here, the culture is centered around the people. There is a good work life balance, and the people in the office understand if things come up and schedules need to be shifted. Personally, I love when others say good morning and ask me how I am doing. Simple things mean the most. I also love that the whole office loves food. Our Christmas lunch and end of tax season lunch were fun times.

**Most Unusual Project at RBF:** I can't quite think of an unusual project I have worked on, but I was pleasantly surprised when I got to attend the March Madness event during tax season business hours. It was a fun Friday event and even clients were surprised to see accountants there in March!

**– Anthony Spataro –**  
**What got you interested in accounting:** I was always into working with numbers, and had

a business background from a young age due to working at my family's restaurant.



**Anthony Spataro** **Best thing about tax season:** Our firm has a fun committee that plans events every other Friday to have the team get together to socialize outside of the working environment.

**Funniest thing that's ever happened at RBF:** TBD

**The culture at RBF:** We are very team oriented, mindful of employees, and employees' ability to have a work life balance.

**Most unusual project at RBF:** While working on the audit team we had to travel to a client to count the stock of some farm animals. That was interesting!

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