

Carbide Dump



October 2023
Vol 58, No 09

The *Carbide Dump* is published monthly by the Blue Ridge Grotto of the National Speleological Society in Roanoke, Virginia. Distribution date is approximately the second week of each month. An issue may be skipped if insufficient material is received. Contributions of articles and artwork are invited and will be gratefully acknowledged. Art work originals will be returned. Contributions should be sent to the editor. Regular and associate grotto membership (\$10) includes a *Carbide Dump* subscription. Subscriber rate is \$10.00. Exchanges with other grotto and caving organizations are invited. Direct exchange mail to Mary Sue Socky.

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The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 6:30p at Jersey Lily's Roadhouse, 1650 Braeburn Dr. Salem, VA 24153. See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue.

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You can access the *Carbide Dump* electronically at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>

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Contributors: David & Mary Sue Socky, Marian McConnell, Susan Burr, Meredith Weberg, Lynn Ott, Bru Randall, Bob Hoke, George Dasher, Carol Tideman, Johanna Neller, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Salamander in a cave in Alleghany County, VA. Photo by Dave Socky

CAVERS CALENDAR

Oct 13-15: *GO Fest* in downtown Roanoke, VA and Explore Park. **Free.** Click [here](#) for info.

Oct 20-23: Fall VAR near Sharpsburg, MD. See page 84.

Oct. 20: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA. Nominations.

Oct. 21: Bridge Day, Fayetteville WV. <https://officialbridgeday.com/>

Oct 24-31: Celebrate Bat Week! <https://batweek.org>

Oct. 28-29: NCRC OCR beginner cave rescue weekend class, Morgantown, WV. \$60.00. See this [link](#) for info.

Oct. 31: Halloween! Hug a bat!

Oct. 31: Final day of the BRG Online Gear Auction. See page 81.

Nov 11: WVCC Cave Banquet in Lewisburg, WV. See page 86.

Nov. 15: Deadline to submit all awards nomination letters to the NSS.

Nov 17: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA. Elections.

Dec 9: WVACS Christmas Party. Contact Kelly McCarthy 419-303-1694.

Dec. 15: NO BRG MEETING. Come to the BRG Party.

Dec. 17: BRG Holiday Party, Dave & Mary Socky's place. Noon-5p

Jan. 19, 2024: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Feb. 16, 2024: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

July 1-5, 2024: NSS Convention, Sewanee, TN. Details at [this site](#)

Membership

BRG currently has 56 members and 5 subscribers for 2023.

Updated Membership lists will be available at the October 20 BRG meeting.

Attention former BRG members in good standing – to rejoin BRG, you only need to sign a membership agreement and pay your \$10.

Know of a potential caver? Bring them to a BRG meeting, sponsor them on a BRG activity, do lots of fun things with the best cavers around ~

Cave Softly 🦇

Long Cave Lists

A legacy of Bob Gulden, now maintained by Paul Berger

<https://cave-exploring.com/index.php/long-and-deep-caves-of-the-world/>

Treasurer's Report 10/12/2023

Cave Bucks	\$ 45.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$3,689.97
Total	\$3,882.05

BRG Meeting & Trips Notice

The **October 20, 2023** meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held at **Jersey Lily's Roadhouse 1650 Braeburn Dr, Salem, VA 24153**. Dinner, appetizers with socializing starts at 6:00pm with the meeting starting around 6:30p.

This month's program will be a video "*Rescue 911 - Moses Tomb*". It is 21:15 minutes long.

Grotto Trip

Lost Cave, WV

Date & Time: Saturday, October 21, 2023. Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market at **8:30 am**.

Leader: Jeff Huffman

Coordination: Susan Burr 540-580-9409
pondlady97@gmail.com

Requirements: Horizontal beginner trip. If you wish to go, let Susan Burr know.

Limit: No limit

Description

Lost cave is owned by the West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC). Lost Cave is 1,138 meters (3,736 feet) long and 13.3 meters deep and was mapped by Bill Balfour and the Greenbrier Grotto in the Late Pleistocene. Lost Cave is a horizontal, easy beginner cave but does contain a bit of crawling.

Lost Cave is formed in the Union Limestone. It contains a large number of old petre earth piles from the Mexican American War (1846-1848). These were left intact when war ended, as with no additional need for saltpeter or gunpowder the miners just walked out of the cave and went home. The cave also contains a fair amount of modern graffiti, but no wooden artifacts.

There is one additional, serious requirement, and this is that cavers **Do not stray from the path leading to the cave entrance, and that they Do not go up the hill beyond the cave entrance**. The previous owner has two

shooting ranges up the hill and does not want anyone straying into a location where they could be hurt. 🐱



Entrance to Lost Cave. Old photo from the WVCC Facebook page.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRG Meeting Minutes – can be read on the BRG webpage at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org> under the 'BRG Organization' button.

NSS Membership:

Would you like to join or renew with the NSS? See this [link](#) for details.



Cave Bucks are voluntary donations from cavers who have recently been caving. Most people donate a few dollars for each cave trip they have been on. Then send the money where it will do some good and buy some caves!

BRG Holiday Party – yes, there will be one! **Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023. Noon-5pm** at Dave & Mary Sue Socky's place, 6572 Woodbrook Dr. Roanoke VA 24018. Potluck, BYOB, casual, friends and family welcome. Contact Mary Sue Socky 540-529-3954 sockymss@cox.net for more info.

2023 BRG Landowner Christmas Cards: the grotto voted YES to send them this year. A new design is chosen each year. Please send or bring your photos, artwork, ideas for this year's card to the October meeting.

Cave Rescue ER-NCRC Updates:

- Cave Rescue Protocol: Sign up if you wish receive information and notifications at this [link](#).
- Don't use the old phone number on the back of your BRG membership card - that phone # is no longer in service. Call **911** if there is a cave rescue. 2024 BRG membership cards will be updated.
- Use the Caver Alert Information Sheet for each cave trip. Download [this Caver Alert Information Sheet](#) as a template for important info for you and your surface contact.

Other Reports

- Bob Alderson is finally back in the USA! Bob is staying in Blacksburg, VA at his sister's house as he continues to heal.
- Doug Feller continues to make slow progress. He's walking, driving, and getting around.

Bat Cave Closures -

Some WV and VA caves have closed for the **winter** hibernating period for bats. Other caves may be open for the winter. The winter closure does not affect all caves. Check the closed list, and please go elsewhere if your intended cave is closed. *There are thousands of caves in the Virginias.*

- **Virginia - Closed Oct. 15—Apr. 15 for bat hibernacula. (Winter Closure in effect)**
- **West Virginia – Closed Sept. 1 - May 15 for bat hibernacula. (Winter Closure in effect)**

See [this link](#) for more WV closed cave information.

Please respect all cave closures.

VAR CLOSED CAVE LIST: lots of information needs to be updated. Please send changes, additions to Brad Blase blase@virginiacaves.org The Closed Cave List can be viewed at [this link](#).



Crozet Tunnel - The Ultimate Barrier-Free Underground Experience!

By *Mary Sue Socky*

I'm old. I'm falling apart. I can't go caving like I used to. I'm too slow. My grotto really does not want me on the monthly trips anymore.

Do these comments sound familiar?

All the above apply to me, and to a lot of other cavers, too.

We're cavers, We crave the cave smell, the cool air in our face, and the sound of dripping water.

The echoes of our footsteps, and the sweet DARKNESS.

I planned an 'easy trip' into a cave earlier this year. The water was up, and it was difficult for many participants. It was NOT easy. <Sigh> SORRY.

Not to be deterred, I began searching for other "very easy caves."



The Western (Blue Ridge) entrance to the tunnel with Cyndi Hutchison and Mary Sue Socky. (note 1850's masonry) Photo by Barry Ferguson

een costumes, kids adorned with glow-sticks, and in the middle of all this, a voice rang out "... Are you a caver? Barry Ferguson?" Ben Johnson had gotten a late start, but he finally found us. He said it was easy – look for helmets and the brightest lights!

We enjoyed the sights – old brickwork, remnants of concrete barriers (now removed), and springs of water gushing from the walls. We did not see any bats, or salamanders. But, oh, that cool air felt WONDERFUL!

The trip ended too soon, but we hope to continue to offer 'easy' trips in the future. Keep Posted!



Cyndi Hutchison, Mary Sue Socky, and Ben Johnson.
Photo by Barry Ferguson



The Crozet Tunnel from the inside.
Photo by Ben Johnson

Know what? Very easy wild caves are difficult, too. We do not want a cave rescue. Commercial caves? The numerous stairs in many show caves are an obstacle, too.

So, what meets the parameters of a cave, but without the barriers? Answer: **The Blue Ridge/Crozet Tunnel**, near Waynesboro/Afton, VA. You get to hike UNDER the Blue Ridge Mountains, in an old 1850's era hand-dug train tunnel that has been turned into a popular greenway. You can hike, bike, scooter, or skateboard through the ¾ mile cinder/gravel path. Bring a light!

<https://www.nelsoncounty.com/blue-ridge-tunnel/>

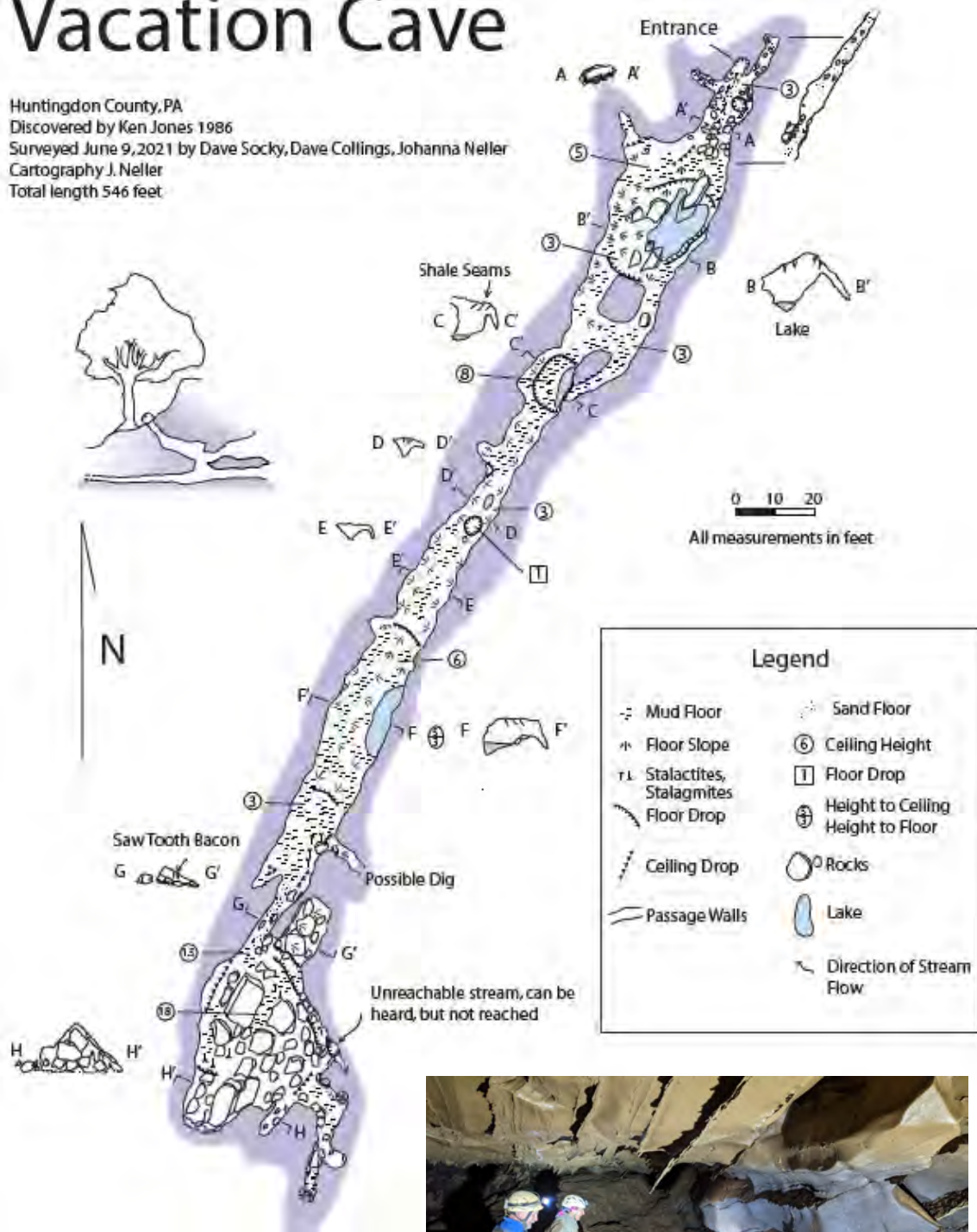
There was not much grotto turnout for our trip. Barry Ferguson, Cyndi Hutchison, and I drove up from Roanoke to the Crozet Tunnel side. While the Blue Ridge/Waynesboro access has a nice 1/2 mile switchback trail to the tunnel entrance, the Crozet Tunnel side is ADA compliant.

The Tunnel was popular! Various groups of people walked and rode through it, and back again. We saw families, dog walkers, folks in Hallow-



Vacation Cave

Huntingdon County, PA
 Discovered by Ken Jones 1986
 Surveyed June 9, 2021 by Dave Socky, Dave Collings, Johanna Neller
 Cartography J. Neller
 Total length 546 feet



Vacation Cave by Dave Socky

Back in June of 2021 I went to Pennsylvania to help Dave Collings and Johanna Neller map **Vacation Cave**. Johanna wanted to learn about surveying and cartography so we turned all the notes and sketches over to her so she could produce a map. It took a while, but Johanna finally produced a fine looking map, which she sent to me and Dave Collings.



Dave Collings and Johanna Neller sit by a pool in Vacation Cave, PA. Photo by Dave Socky

Vertical & Caving Gear BRG Auction

The auction for the vertical and caving gear that Carl Cornett donated to the BRG has been a great success. The gear was first offered to BRG members for auction. That part of the auction is closed and brought in a total of \$346.51.

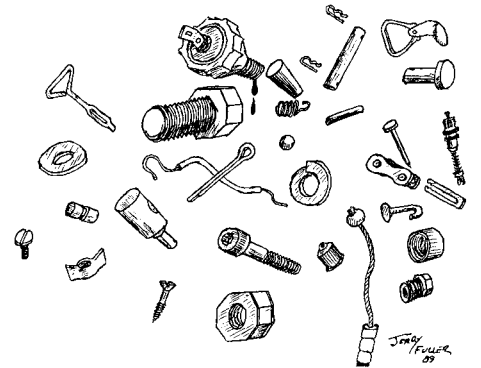
The auction was then opened to the general caving community and is still active. This part of auction will close at the end of October and is open to anyone.

So far, there are bids on everything except for the climbing gloves, extra rack bars, and the elbow pads.

There is still time left, so check out the auction and place your bids. Again, the auction is open until **October 31, 2023!**

Contact Dave Socky for any questions
sockydr@cox.net

Link to BRG Gear Auction 2023
https://blueridgegrotto.org/documents/brg_gear_auction_2023/BRG_Gear_Auction_2023.htm



Paxton Cave, VA, Trip Report

By *Susan Burr*

September 16, 2023

Participants: Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Kelly Perkins, Erin Bejjani, Dustin Widmann (first time caving- friend of Erin), Isaiah Hall (second time caving- friend of Jeff Huffman).

This would be the first time Jeff and I had to lead a Paxton Cave trip without Doug Feller's guidance. Of course, we immediately got lost in the entrance maze! We did, however, get back on track quickly. I would say we only made a couple more minor boo boos after that. Overall we did a pretty good job.

We actually did the normal "tourist trip" with a side trip to the climb up section for the "Worm Garden" to see if Kelly could free climb it. She did! Now we know for possible future trips.

We can report that the "Barbie Room" is still in its X-rated version, with the Power Ranger still hanging on the ceiling. We did determine that the olm we keep seeing is actually a toy.

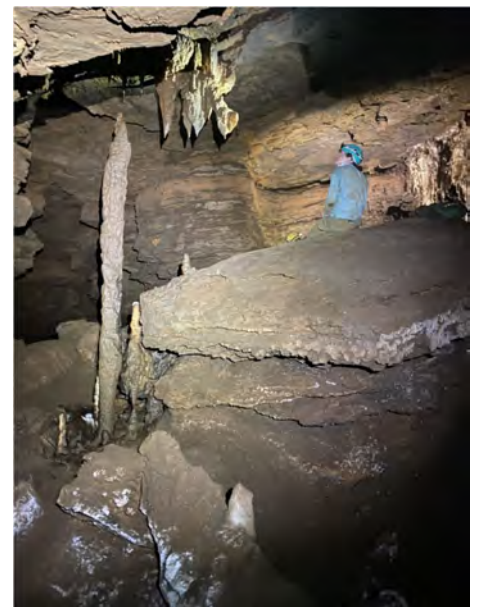
Of course we had to play around in the room at the beginning of the back loop that has the two holes in the wall for people to climb in & hang out of. We took bunches of pictures.

Overall everyone did great! We returned to the entrance to help Erin and Dustin out so they could leave. Afterwards the rest of us headed over the Historic section to play around for a bit. On our way out of the cave, Jeff and Kelly decided to climb out of one of the waterfall entrances since there was very little water flowing.

We had a good four and a half hour cave trip. We even stopped off at an overlook off Rt. 311 on the way back. I don't know the name of it though.



Formations in Paxton Cave, VA. Photo by Kelly Perkins



Someplace in Paxton Cave, VA. Photo by Jeff Huffman



Susan Burr doing the high step. Photo by Kelly Perkins



Dogtooth spar in Paxton Cave, VA. Photo by Kelly Perkins

NSS Landowner Appreciation Award

Carroll Bassett, NSS # 34462 FE, caver and cave owner, received an NSS Certificate of Appreciation from the NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee. The framed Certificate was presented to Carroll at OTR 2023 by his friends from Blue Ridge Grotto.

Carroll was nominated for his commitment to cave conservation, access, exploration, and education – he is a great

landowner who makes a difference!

Thanks, Carroll, for allowing access to Boar Hole Cave, for purchasing other cave entrances to ensure cave access, and establishing and maintaining excellent landowner relations with other cave owners!

Photos by Dave Socky 🐾

VAR Grants Available

By *Carol Tideman*

Do you need to raise funds for a project or other activity? Consider hosting a VAR. There are instructions for hosting on the VAR website, so you do not need to figure it all out. Past hosts are available to give you advice. Hosts are needed for the Spring and Fall meet in 2024. Help the VAR and your activity. WIN-WIN.



Carroll Bassett receiving his award



L-R back: Susie Weston, Trish Geiger
L-R front: Carroll Bassett, Mary Sue Socky

PAY YER 2024 DUES!!

It's close to that time. Dues are not due until the November 17 grotto meeting, but it never hurts to pay early. Current BRG members and BRG Subscribers:

- 2024 BRG dues are \$10.00 for regular or associate members, \$5.00 for additional family members. Discount for members under 18. Subscriber fee is \$10.00 per person.
- Make checks to *Blue Ridge Grotto*.
- Families, additional dues payers – there will be printed info on your family rate at the Nov 17 BRG meeting.
- If you mail in your dues, please in-

clude a piece of paper with your current address, phones, email, NSS number (and NSS expiration month), and primary grotto affiliation.

- You can pay for multiple years.

Pay your dues at the October 20 meeting (early) or the November 17 BRG meeting, or the December 17 Winter Get-Together, or mail them to:

Mary Sue Socky, BRG Treasurer
6572 Woodbrook Dr.
Roanoke, VA 24018

Can't remember if you've already paid? We do! Check the pre-paid list.

Lauren Appel - 2024
Sharon Bruce - 2024

Susan Burr - 2024
Joseph Caldwell - 2026
Carl Cornett - 2024
Miriam Cuddington - 2032
Carrie Douppnik - 2024
Joey Fagan - Life
Cheryl Feller - 2025
Doug Feller - 2025
Trish Geiger - 2024
Keith Goggin - 2024
Lisa Goggin - 2024
Gene Harrison - 2032
Jeff Huffman - 2030
Kevin Johnson - 2025
Lynn Ott - 2032
Kelly Perkins - 2024
Ed Saugstad - 2024
Marianne Saugstad - 2024
Nick Schmalenberger—2024

Not a BRG member? Ask any officer how to begin the membership pro-



Grotto Trip Log

8/19: Rimstone Falls Cave, WV. (Susan Burr) – see write-up in the Aug/Sept 2023 *Carbide Dump*.

9/9: Dry Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Alex Faunce, Josh Williams, Aidon Ward, and Renee Erickson. Second team: Greg Springer, Eli Meyers, Sydney Hansen, and Zoe Hoelmer. We entered Dry around noon. The plan was to go to Bobcat Creek with 3 survey teams. Got to the Blowhole and I found that the new O-rings I had gotten for my Darin drum didn't work. In spite of tightening the lids, they had worked loose and both drums leaked a bunch. Luckily, I had put my polypro inside a plastic bag inside the small Darin drum, so my clothes weren't wet. But everything inside my large Darin drum got soaked. And to top it off, my DistoX case had the cord caught in the lid, so the case wasn't sealed shut and my DistoX got soaked. It didn't work. The laser wouldn't come on. So, we were down to two DistoXs for three teams. I offered to go out along with Eli (who offered) and let the rest continue in as two teams. But Greg decided it would be best to abort Bobcat Creek and do a backup plan of surveying in the upper levels near the Liberty Room. Everyone admitted later they were somewhat relieved that we did the shorter trip because a trip to Bobcat Creek is long and hard. Anyway, Alex sketched on our team of 5 while Greg sketched on his team of 4. We exited the cave around 9:30pm.

9/12: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Addie Shanor, Joe Zokaite, and Bill Koerschner. We went in the Lightner entrance. The primary purpose of the trip was to help Addie study crawfish in Chocolate Ave. But we figured to do more while we were there so Addie agreed to help survey in the Third

Breakdown. We found 3 large crawfish, plus a couple of small juveniles, so the science portion of the trips was a success. For the survey, we went on over the top of Third Breakdown which was a long way around, but avoided all the crawling and small spots on the shorter route. But it wasn't that much better and was a lot longer than I remembered. There were a lot of complaints! Once we found MMD27 I didn't have any problems finding our lead into the Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria Room. We surveyed the whole area, more or less finishing off the Third Breakdown. The long sandy crawl that heads west was really tight and will take some digging to get through. It was a fun 12-hour trip where we surveyed 247 feet.

(Date?): Tawney's Cave, VA. Jeff Huffman, Susan Burr, and Isaiah. Did a basic trip to give Isaiah an orientation to wild caving.

9/16: Dry Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Greg Springer, and Lucy Ogle. We went upstream of the Blowhole, past the 2nd Bypass, and continued the resurvey of the main stream passage. We started out by doing a dry short loop and then continued upstream. After surveying 15 stations or so we took a break and then ran upstream for 15 minutes to get warm. Lucy and I checked an upper level which needs to be surveyed. We got about 36 stations and 1110 feet of survey. Our survey was mostly in big walking trunk passage. We headed out at 9 pm and got out at 11:30pm. It was a good 12.5 hour trip.

9/23: A river cave, in Alleghany County, VA. Participants included David Socky, Mark Minton, Yvonne Droms, Bill Koerschner, Riley Drake, and Katarina Kosič -Ficco. This was a science trip with Riley and Katarina being the prime investigators. We entered the cave around 11am. The trip in was pretty

standard. The water was really low, but the air and water temperatures weren't as high as they had been seen in the past. Water samples and temperature readings were taken at the Hot Tub. Mark and I collected a few tools from the Air Acclivity dig just before the Hot Tub. We left a piece of dynamic rope in the cave because of a bolt climb we saw that will need to be done. We finally got to the location where we had seen the orange slime from previous trips. Riley and Katarina put on sterile gloves and put together a lacrosse double pole with gauze on the net. Then Katarina went into the low passage to find the orange slime. She found it! She got it into the gauzed net. It was successfully collected! Yeah! Further upstream Mark and I found some other globules of orange slime. These were successfully collected in a bottle and sucked up using a turkey baster. We then made our way to the back of the cave where the siphon is located. Riley, Katarina, Mark, and Vonnie went into the lead beyond the sump (but before the rabbit hole) to collect more orange slime and take water and air temperatures. The trip out was a lot quicker than the way in. We got out at 9pm.

9/30: Dry Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Tatiana Olin, Ripley Taylor. Second team Greg Springer, and two others. More survey in the main stream passage before the Bitter End. We picked up from where we left off on the last trip. There were several ways up into big high leads, but we didn't survey those - just marked them on the map. Greg's team climbed up into a high lead upstream from where we started and then tied into the stream. Then they surveyed upstream. It was a good 12 hour trip with 665 feet surveyed by our team.



Vonnie Droms in a crawl. Photo by Dave Socky



Last Chance Fall VAR 2023

Antietam Creek Campground
October 20 - 22, 2023

The dates of the VAR are **October 20-22, 2023**. Hosted by Tri-State Grotto.

We will be staying at the **Antietam Creek Campground**, near Antietam, MD. This is part of the **Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park**.

The campground is located near the mouth of the Antietam creek. Nearby towns are Sharpsburg, MD, and Shepherdstown, WV.

The campground is located between the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. It is a walk-in campground. Canal Road parallels the campground. Parking is on

the shoulder of one side of the road. This is the normal campground parking. Some of it is paved and some places it is level dirt. We cannot handle large self-contained units. Pop-ups are sketchy; you only have the shoulder for parking, then it drops off into the canal.

No alcohol is allowed in National Parks.

There will be led cave trips to Molars Cave, Cricket Maze Cave, Jones Quarry Cave, and Donaldson Cave.

You can also hike and bike the canal or kayak the nearby Potomac River.

Dinner Saturday night will be pulled pork, green beans, potato salad, and drinks. There will be a vegetarian option. You must request it on the pre-registration form.

Pre-registration has ended. **On Site/At the Door registration: \$40.00**

At the Door Registration does NOT include Saturday dinner.

For more info, see <https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/fall-var>



OTR Reunion Museum

Steve Luke and Patty Bittinger run the **OTR Reunion Museum**. If you are ever at the OTR site, and the Museum Trailer is open, take a tour!

One idea that Steve is promoting is for cavers to pre-write their obituary and send it to him at oldtimersreunionmuseum@gmail.com for future reference. Include:

Name, NSS number, OTR's attended to date, Grotto(s), Contact Information (will not be published - just used by museum staff if questions or clarification needed), and Significant information about YOU - or who you are writing about. OTR stories. What have you done within the caving community.

2023 Honorees at LUTZ Rock as of 8/31/2023

Ken Carter
Doug Chadwick
Susan Cole
Bill English
Bob Gulden
Eric Hahn
John Huftalen
Karen Kastning
Gordy Ley
Ackie Loyd

Bucky Mock
Brian Preaux
G. Thomas Rea
Ray Sira
Marion O. Smith
Al Stewart
Ann Underwood
Eberhard Warner
Daniel E. Yellets



WVASS Bulletin #28:

The Caves and Karst of North-Central Greenbrier County is now available from the West Virginia Speleological Survey. This 198-page publication describes the caves southwest from Spring Creek to the Richlands area and includes The Hole and the Higginbotham caves. It covers the area between Ludington and Lost Cave, and south to Ronceverte, WV. In other words, the Davis Spring Basin, and some other nearby areas.

The cost is \$30, and it can be ordered from Andrew "Nick" Schaer, WVASS Bulletin Sales and Treasurer, 304-621-5144 or andrew.schaer@frontier.com.

George Dasher 



Fred Grady Memorial Service

from Bob Hoke via VARListServ

Michael Grady, Fred Grady's brother, sent the message below and asked me to forward it to the caving community.

"We will be having an online memorial via Zoom for Fred on Saturday Nov 4 at 4pm Eastern time. Please let me know if you would like to be on the invite list and let others in the caving community know. Anyone who sends me an email will receive a zoom invitation by email about two days prior".

Mike's email address is:

Michael.Grady@fredonia.edu



A river cave, Alleghany County, VA.
Photo by Dave Socky

NSS Cave Ballad Songs

Check it out! The new NSS Website now has ALL the Cave Ballad entries available for your listening pleasure. There are 167 caving songs for you to choose from. You can filter the list by year, search for titles by keywords, or select just the best of show and/or the merit award winners. You can find the Cave Ballad songs at: <https://caves.org/salons/cave-ballad-index/>. Or you can just use the NSS Website menu at <https://caves.org> and select /OUR WORK/SALONS/ and click on 'See Winners' for the Cave Ballad section. Check out the other Salons too, while you're there. 🐿



“Explore Virginia Caves” license plate

UPDATE: The notice and application for the Explore Virginia Caves license plate is now live on the DCR Cave Board page at this [link](#).

We are still a good ways away from the 450 applications needed for the legislation to move forward. Please feel free to share the link with your networks.

Please forward this to your grottos if you have Virginia residents as members.
Meredith Weberg

Hi VAR Cavers, specifically VIRGINIA Cavers,

Here is a great opportunity to help the Virginia Cave Board and get a cool caver license plate for your car!

Before this becomes a reality, we need 450 of us to preorder them. And it probably won't be until sometime next year, but it'll be worth the wait, I think. The cost is \$25 for a non-personalized plate and \$35 for a personalized plate.

This license plate was designed by a [Show Cave owner](#) (Luray Caverns). Below is the message from Elizabeth Graves Good from Luray Caverns:

My name is Elizabeth Graves Good, I am the assistant manager for Marketing & Public Relations with Luray Caverns.

We have designed a Virginia license plate to support the Virginia Cave Board. The Virginia Cave Board works diligently in collaborating with multiple

organizations and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to promote the conservation and protection of caves, karst, cave life and environmental education.

*We have created a plate that is DMV approved. I will attach all the paper work that goes with this process for you to read over. Along with this email will be the actual form each individual will need to fill out with check attached. Please send DMV Preorder Request paper work and checks payable to **Treasurer of Virginia** with “Explore Virginia Caves” license plate in the memo.*

Send paperwork & check to: Virginia Cave Board, Attn: Michael Fletcher (FOIA Officer) 600 E. Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, VA 23219. His contact

information is (804) 786-8445 / michael.fletcher@dcr.virginia.gov.

We wanted to get this email out to each of you so you can get started on filling forms out. In mid-April we will follow up on how things are going.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at (540) 743-6551 ext. 2250.

Thank you for your help in making this happen!

Click on the links below for the forms that need to be filled out to preorder:

[License Plate Development Preorder request.](#)

[DMV Special License Plate Dev Process](#) 🐿



West Virginia Cave Conservancy



Annual Banquet

Saturday, November 11, 2023

At the Alumni Center at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia

Happy Hour (cash bar) starts at 5:00 PM. Dinner is at 7:00 PM

Banquet Speaker: Mike Ficco will share the discoveries and experiences of exploring caves in east-central Montenegro. Over the course of five expeditions, the Kučka Korita Project has documented more than 100 new caves in this spectacular, but often-overlooked, karst region.

Silent Auction: There will be the traditional Silent Auction at the banquet. Donations are welcome, or bring money to bid on the many treasures.

Menu: There are three menu options this year. You must choose one ahead of time:

Roast Prime Rib of beef (English cut 6 oz.) with baked potato bar, grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus, spring mix salad with Italian or ranch dressing, rolls and butter, dessert.

Grilled Chicken and Pasta Alfredo: Includes grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus, mixed green salad, fresh baked focaccia bread and rolls, cheesecake squares.

Grilled Zucchini with spinach mix lasagna with marinara sauce (vegan) includes baked potato bar, grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus.

All meals include the drink station with sweet tea, lemonade and bottled water.

- Event registration is \$50 per person.
- Reservations must be received by **Thursday, November 2**. Reservations are required so we know how much food to order. There will be no 'at the door' meal tickets available. Make checks payable to WVCC and mail to: **WVCC Banquet, c/o Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707.**
- Tickets can also be purchased using a credit card or PayPal account. To use a credit card or PayPal go to [WVCC.net/purchase-options](https://wvcc.net/purchase-options). If you pay through the website, please include a note with your meal preference or send a message to Bob Hoke at bob@rhoke.net with your preference.
- There will be a cash bar from 5–7 PM. Bringing personal alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Please see the driving directions and map on the back



Yes, I will attend the West Virginia Cave Conservancy's Annual Banquet:

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of meals: Prime Rib ____ Chicken ____ Vegetarian (vegan) ____

If you are registering multiple people please include a note saying which meal each person wants.

Total Amount Enclosed (\$50 per person) _____