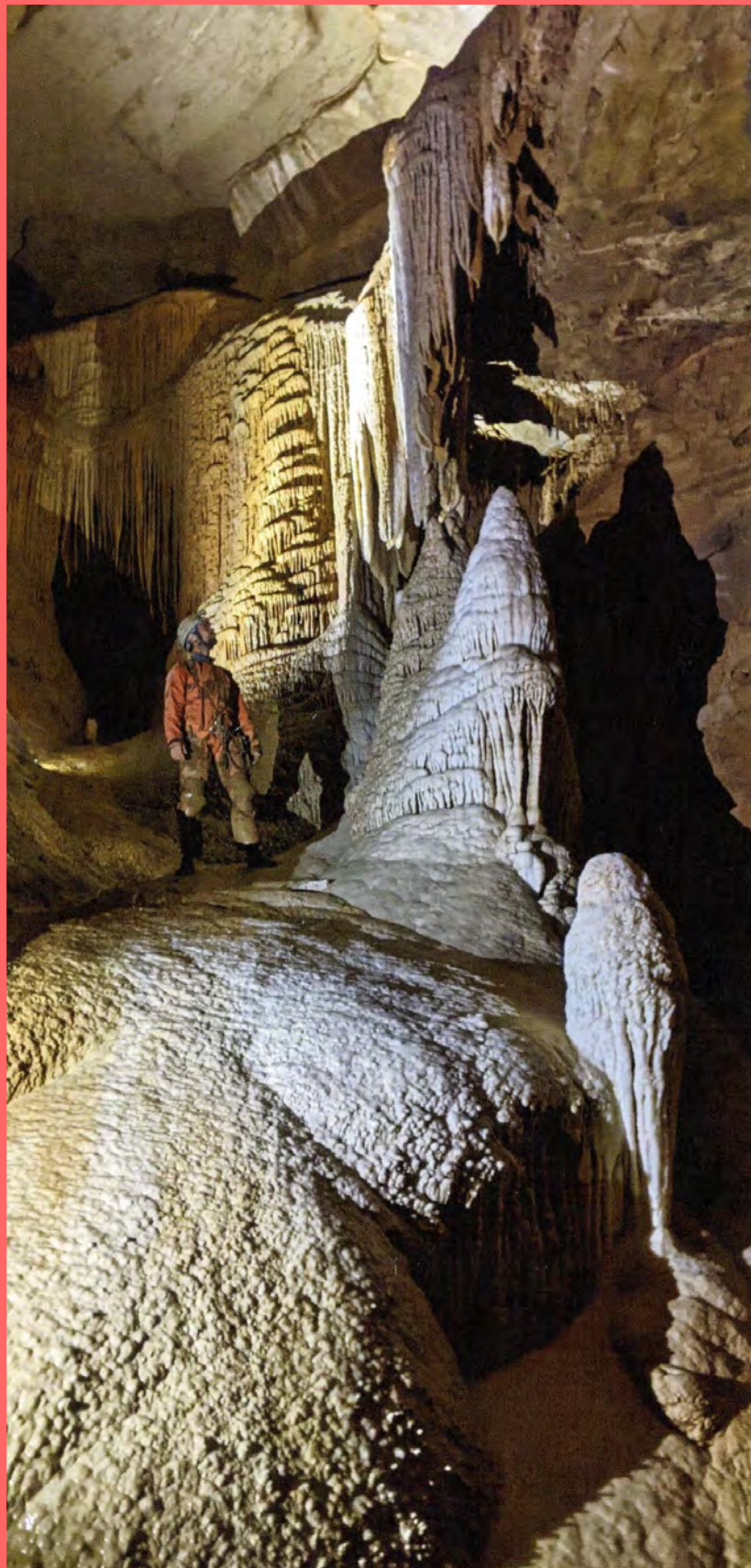


Carbide Dump



**PEACE
IN EARTH**
from the
**BLUE RIDGE
GROTTO**

*Front photo by David Socky of Nick Socky in Great Savannah Cave System, WV
Back colored pencil art by Marian McConnell of Susan Burr in Poor Farm Cave, WV*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Wishing you health, happiness,
and hope in 2023!*

*Your friends of the BLUE RIDGE GROTTTO
Roanoke, VA*

Yours Truly Shutterfly.
exclusively for shutterfly.com

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, Bob Gulden, Dusty & Nicole Gulden, Miriam Cuddington, Wil Orndorff, Madeline Schreiber, Virginia Outdoors Adventures, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Blue Ridge Grotto 2022 Landowner Christmas Card. Front: photo by Dave Socky, of Nick Socky in Great Savannah Cave, WV. Back: sketch & card design by Marian McConnell; from a photo taken by Doug Feller of Susan Burr in the entrance of (Greenbrier) Poor Farm Cave, WV.

CAVERS CALENDAR

Dec 10: WVACS XMAS Party, @ the WVACS Field station north of Frankford, WV. Dinner starts 6pm. See Chuck Frostick frostickchuck@gmail.com for more info.

Dec 16: NO BRG MEETING

Dec 18: BRG Xmas Party, Noon-5pm, Dave & Mary Socky's house, Roanoke, VA. See p. 86.

Jan 1, 2023: Happy New Year!

Jan 7, 2023: Virginia Cave Board meeting, 11a, at Shenandoah Caverns, Mt. Jackson, VA. See <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/cavehome> for more info.

Jan 20, 2023: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

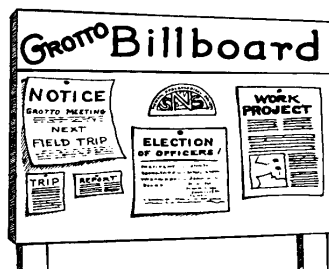
Jan 26-29: Winter Adventure Weekend, Carter Caves State Park, Olive Hill, KY. See www.winteradventureweekend.com for more info on caving, winter survival, rappelling, kayaking, etc. Kid friendly.

Feb 17, 2023: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

June 19 to 23, 2023: WVACS Convention Pre-Camp, at the WVACS Field-station north of Frankford in Greenbrier County, WV. For more information, contact Jessica Reep at j.reep@aol.com

June 26-30, 2023: NSS Convention, Elkins, West Virginia. For more information, see their website at <https://nss2023.caves.org>

Summer 2024: NSS Convention in Sewanee, Tennessee.

**Long Cave Lists**

maintained by Bob Gulden
USA Long & Deep, World Long & Deep, & World Big Rooms
www.caverbob.com/usalong.htm
www.caverbob.com/usadeep.htm
www.caverbob.com/rooms.htm
www.caverbob.com/wlong.htm
www.caverbob.com/wdeep.htm

Treasurer's Report
12/8/2022

Cave Bucks	\$ 40.96
Conservation	\$ 1.00
Equipment	\$ 104.12
General	\$3,947.34
Total	\$4,093.42



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.



2022 BRG Landowner Christmas Cards: 70 cards have been mailed. See the front cover of this issue of the **Carbide Dump** for the card.

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!

NSS News Editor - Thank You, *Dave Bunnell*, for an outstanding job, publishing the *NSS News* for 26 years! We will miss you. Enjoy your retirement!

Cave Conservation Events

Karen Kastning announced that NRVG has permission to clean out **3 trash-filled sinks near James Cave, VA**. TBA. This project will involve a backhoe. Karen will keep BRG updated.

Lynn Ott announced that **Cricket Maze Cave, WV**, will have an Open House in April or May 2023. TBA.

Sinkhole cleanup: VAR is planning another sinkhole cleanout in 2023 – this time on private property north of Covington, VA.

Bat Cave Closures - We are now in **Winter Bat Cave Closure**. Some designated caves are closed so bat species can have critical habitat to hibernate. This closure affects some, but not all caves. If the cave you want to visit is closed, go elsewhere! There are thousands of caves in the Virginias.

- Winter closure for bat caves in **West Virginia is Sept 1—May 15.**
- Winter closure for bat caves in **Virginia is Oct 15 – April 15.**

Please respect all cave closures.

VAR CLOSED CAVE LIST UPDATES: lots of information needs to be updated. Please send changes, additions to Brad Blase blase@virginiacaves.org. The closed cave list can be found [here](#).



CCV Conservation Grants

The Cave Conservancy of the Virginias (CCV) has a grants program to fund a variety of projects, including education and outreach endeavors, cave and sinkhole cleanups, purchase of significant properties for protection, original scientific or humanities research on cave and karst systems, among others. Projects should promote or facilitate conservation, management, knowledge or acquisition of cave and karst resources in Virginia and West Virginia.

The deadline for proposals to be considered at the spring CCV board meeting is January 15, 2023.

Project leaders must submit their proposal through an appropriate organization (see proposal guidelines) as grants are not made to individuals. Please carefully review the grant proposal guidelines, available on the CCV website, before preparing your proposal:

<https://caveconservancyofvirginia.org/grant-proposal-guidelines/>

Please distribute this email widely!

Best, Madeline Schreiber
mschreib@vt.edu



BRG Meeting & Trips Notice

There will be no December Grotto meeting. Instead, come to the BRG Christmas Party on December 18 at Dave and Mary Sue Socky's house. See notice below.

Grotto Trip

To Be Determined

BRG Christmas Party

The Blue Ridge Grotto Christmas Party will be held Sunday, Dec 18, 2022.

- **Where:** Dave and Mary Sue Socky's house at 6572 Woodbrook Drive SW Roanoke, VA 24018.
- **Time:** Noon to 5 pm.
- **Details:** Pot Luck, BYOB, cavers, family, and friends welcome!

Of course, caving photos and videos will be shown!

Stay for the duration, or just for a little while; we would love for you to drop by!

Please be healthy - Thanks!

Contact Mary Sue Socky at sockymss@cox.net or call 540-529-3954 if you need directions.

Click here for a [Google Map location](#)



Joe Zokaites on point in McClung Cave, WV . Photo by Dave Socky

Robert Gulden - NSS 13188RL, FE

March 30, 1948 - November 30, 2022

Robert "Bob" Edgar Gulden, (NSS 13188RL (FE)), passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of November 30, 2022. Bob was born on March 30, 1948, in Starnberg, Germany, to Irma and Edgar Walt Gulden.

Bob was extremely well-known in the caving community as a cave surveyor, cave cartographer, and the keeper of the Long & Deep Caves List. Perhaps his largest contribution to caving cartography is the Friars Hole Cave System map, a cave that is still being explored & mapped (most recently passed 50 miles of mapped passage). Bob also participated in the surveying and mapping of many other caves including, but not limited to Cricket

Maze, Mammoth, and Great Onyx.

Bob's wife Janice Louise Gulden preceded him in death. He is survived by his sister, Margret Noel; son, Dustin Robert; daughter-in-law, Nicole Sophia; and grandsons, Odin Dustin and Orion Robert.

Bob's wishes have always been to be cremated and his ashes to go to Monster Cavern in Friars Hole, so some of his ashes will be sprinkled in the North Stream where they can make their way to Monster Cavern eventually. A remembrance service will be held at a time and date to be determined but likely spring of 2023.

Published by Roanoke Times on Dec. 3, 2022.

Northern Long-eared bat listed as endangered

11/29/2022

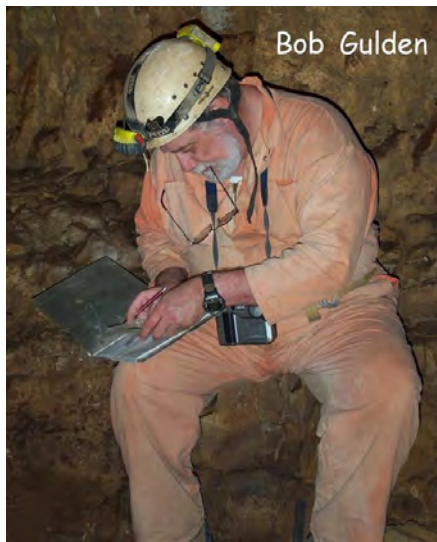
NSS Community Facebook group

Dear conservation stakeholder: Please see the link below for the release announcing that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is publishing a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The rule can be viewed today in the Federal Register Reading Room and will be published in tomorrow's edition of the FR. The bat, listed as threatened in 2015, now faces extinction due to the rangewide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting hibernating bats across North America. The rule takes effect on January 30, 2023.

The change in status from endangered to threatened, when final, will nullify the prior 4(d) rule that tailored protections for the species when it was listed as threatened. The Service recognizes that the change to endangered status may prompt questions about establishing ESA compliance for forestry, wind energy, infrastructure, and other projects in the range of the northern long-eared bat. We are committed to working proactively with stakeholders to conserve remaining northern long-eared bats while reducing impacts to landowners.

[Learn more about the northern long-eared bat](#), the final listing rule.

Click [here](#) for the original Facebook posting.



A good way to remember Bob might be to check out the presentation he gave last March when he received the Karst Waters Institute Award for outstanding contributions to karst science:

<https://karstwaters.org/>

The following video is a recording of the presentation of the KWI Award to Bob, and of the talk he delivered to the group, which was intended to be shared freely with the caving community. Please check it out! I think most of us will learn something about Bob we didn't know, and it's really nice to hear Bob describe his caving career.

<https://youtu.be/fow2XGUuasw>

Cheers, Wil Orndorff, KWI

Podcast on Caves and Caving

Caverns and Caving in Virginia's Karst Regions - Virginia Outdoor Adventures

Virginia Outdoor Adventures, a podcast about outdoor recreation in Virginia, recently aired a podcast featuring Blue Ridge Grotto's own [David Socky](#) as he discusses in ins-and-outs of caving for beginners. Listen to the full podcast here: [Caverns and Caving Podcast](#)

The Podcast is produced by [Virginia Outdoors Adventures](#).



Photo by Brian Williams

Membership

There will **NOT** be a December 16, 2022 BRG meeting.

Pay Your Dues! Pay your dues in person at the **BRG Party, Sunday, 12/18/2022!**

Old BRG Members, past BRG Members – if you were a previous member of BRG and left in good standing, your membership can easily be activated: fill out and sign the BRG Membership Agreement & pay your \$10.00 annual dues to the Treasurer.

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 ~

Lowmoor Cave, VA

By *Susan Burr* - December 3, 2022

Participants: Susan Burr, Doug Feller, Kelly Perkins, Jeff Huffman, Nick Schmalenberger, and Lauren Appel. The rest of the group are newbies and boater friends of Kelly: Susan Aigotti, Joe Schuppe, Heather Allen, Nathan Frye (Nathan had been caving before).

Note: we had to change the date of our grotto weekend because again no one was able to come on our regular weekend.

Since we had to change grotto weekends & we had several newbies, I wanted something fairly easy & close to Roanoke. Our group had about a 3 ½ hour trip into Lowmoor Cave. We parked in the mine which was helpful since it was raining that morning. We went through the mine & up the breakdown to enter the cave. While in the mine, we showed the newbies the overlook we would be going to. Once we got into the cave we proceeded in, passing the section with the pretty tiny delicate formations & cave pearls on our way to the overlook. Next we headed into the maze area &

out at the pool. This time there was very little water, but a lot of slippery mud. We headed to the ladder & into the section with the Arch, the Ship Room & back to where there are lots of broken formations. After re-hydrating & some having snacks we headed to Fossil Alley. Next we went to see the bat bones & exoskeletons & then we went to see the pretty formations. On the way back out we went to a couple of other sections & then back to the maze and out.

Afterward we all went to Clifton Forge to eat at Bella's. Everyone had a good time!



Lowmoor mine - Susan Burr



The group checking out formation in Lowmoor. Photo by Susan Burr

PAY YER 2023 DUES!!

It's that time. Current BRG members and BRG Subscribers:

- 2023 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 BRG meeting.
- If you mail in your dues, please include 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 December 18 Winter Get-Together, the January 20, 2023 BRG meeting, 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.

Bob Alderson - 2023
Lauren Appel - 2024
Tom Beaman - 2023
Colin Beck - 2023
Sharon Bruce - 2024
Susan Burr - 2024
Joseph Caldwell - 2026
Carl Cornett - 2024
Miriam Cuddington - 2032
Martin DiLeggi - 2023
Carrie Douppnik - 2024
Joey Fagan - Life
Cheryl Feller - 2025
Doug Feller - 2025
Cole Frantz - 2023
Trish Geiger - 2024
Keith Goggin - 2024
Lisa Goggin - 2024
Gene Harrison - 2032
Jessica Hester - 2023
Jeff Huffman - 2030
Kelsea Johnson - 2023

Kevin Johnson - 2025
Karen Kastning - 2024
Larry Manning - 2023
Dan McConnell - 2023
Marian McConnell - 2023
Randy Michael - 2024
Sharon Mohnney - 2023
Lynn Ott - 2032
Duane Owen - 2023
Jenn Perdue - 2023
Kelly Perkins - 2024
David Rose - 2023
Suzanne Rose - 2023
Ed Saugstad - 2024
Marianne Saugstad - 2024
Gordon Smith - 2023
David Socky - 2023
Mary Sue Socky - 2023
Nick Socky—2023
Alex Sproul - 2023
Jennifer Suggs - 2023
John Taylor - 2023
Bob Thren - 2023
Meredith Weberg - 2023
David Wickersham - 2023
Brian Williams - 2023

Not a BRG member? Ask any officer how to begin the membership process.

Grotto Trip Log

9/17: Boar Hole Cave, WV grotto trip: Susan Burr, Doug Feller, Kelly Perkins, Jeff Huffman, Nick Schmalenberger, Mike Payette. Some trail maintenance, then in and out of the Culvert entrance. Nice 4-hour trip, saw almost everything.

10/7-8: TAG. Larry Manning went to his first TAG. He was not disappointed! He shall return! On 10/7 Larry did **Cagle's Chasm, TN** – the “Jeepside Pit drop” is 110 feet! On 10/8: Larry did **Stephen's Gap Cave, AL** – what a classic 150' rappel!

10/7-9: TAG. Miriam Cuddington attended TAG with her niece Mary. Miriam reported “... It was what I needed and helped me have more good memories. I decided to climb 30 meters in Bill's memory. I climbed 30 meters in 3:20, which was hard, but I was determined to finish the climb. These good memories of life with Bill helps me get through the days... Take care out there!”

10/8: Hamilton Valley CRF (Mammoth Cave, KY) Bob Alderson related how CRF had sunk a 40' shaft – **Stan's Well, KY** into Mammoth Cave to create a ‘short cut’ to distant cave areas. Kevin Downs, Laine Robertson, Bill Koerschner, Bob Alderson had problems negotiating a 25' drop in one of these areas.

Oct 22: Mary Socky, Meredith Weberg, Charles Kahn, and others visited **Owl Cave** and **Water Sinks** both in VA during Fall VAR. (see report page 78 of the November Carbide Dump)

10/22: Bone Cave, WV grotto trip. Susan Burr, Doug Feller, Lauren Appel, Nick Schmalenberger, Kelly Perkins, Jeff Huffman. What started out as a **Norman Cave** trip turned into a trip to see the other entrance of the system, **Bone Cave**. We finally found the entrance high in an old quarry wall. Lots of walking, crawling, lots of dust –this is an old, dry cave. Most went to look at the Devil's Pinch; Susan & Nick waited for them in the main passage. Then everyone headed out. Thanks, other caving group, for the directions!

10/22: Lynn Ott, Gene Harrison, and Barb & Gary Moss took a train excursion to see the fall colors. Afterward, they stopped by **Fall VAR** for a while.

10/29: Bob Alderson, Vonny Droms, Mark Minton, Gabby Zywicki returned to an unnamed cave, WV to continue their cave resurvey. This cave is closed, open by

special permission.

10/30: Lynn Ott, Joey Fagan and Larry Manning attended the **Memorial Service for VPI Caver Eric Haun**.

11/5: Island Ford Cave, VA. Marian McConnell, Mary Sue Socky, Sharon Bruce, Lisa & Charles Graves, Melissa and Frank Maddox, and Yosh. Everyone went to the back of the cave by the spring. They did not see any salamanders, bats, or crayfish in the cave. The group split into two on the way out; Mary Sue, Sharon and Melissa took the easy tourist route back, while Marian led the rest down the sinuous stream canyon. Good fun, and we hope to see some participants at grotto meetings!

11/6: the **John Fox Memorial Service** in Radford, VA was well attended. Many VAR cavers were there.

11/9: Crozet Tunnel, VA. Participants included David Socky and Mary Sue Socky. We went caving, well kind of. We did a through trip in Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel. The tunnel itself is 4273 feet long so we did a 1.6 mile double through trip! We did the “west” entrance. We saw several big brown bats and four waterfalls. Brick masonry at the west end of the tunnel contains symbols and is interesting. Flattest, longest cave I have ever walked through (other than **Thurston Lava Tube, HI**). It was a fun afternoon.

11/12: Dave & Mary Sue Socky, Nick Socky, Lynn Ott, Gene Ferguson, Ed & Marianne Saugstad, Alex Sproul, Karen Kastning, Joey Fagan (who have I left out?) attended the **West Virginia Cave Conservancy Banquet in Lewisburg, WV**.

11/16: Lowmoor Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Bob Alderson, Mark Minton, and Yvonne Droms. This trip was to do high leads in the mine. We drove around by the owner's house because the gate was locked for hunting season. Bob checked with the owner and he said fine. The water in the creek was up a lot too. We drove into the main truck entrance. Not as cold in the mine as I've seen it before. Mark and Vonnie climbed up one of our last high leads to use technical digging to get into a pit we had left when we were there last. They found just a dead bottom hole. Oh well. Bob did a bolt/nail climb that we had attempted years before near the truck entrance. Joe belayed while I found a known station and solo surveyed to a point where we could shoot into the upper lead. When Bob got up,

he announced that there was going passage! Joe and I climbed up, surveying as we went. The lead went a whole 30 feet and came out at an overlook into the mine again, which was expected. We surveyed it then rappelled back down. Bob then did a bolt/nail climb to a high lead on the other side of the mine passage. It went too! We surveyed several hundred feet in cave passage which paralleled the mine. There were several overlooks, killing multiple high leads. The passage finally ended in a breakdown collapse. It was a good 9-hour trip that resulted in 600 feet of new cave.

11/17: Pete's Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, and Mary Lee Hendricks. This is a talus cave on the North Mountain Trail near Longdale Furnace. We saw maybe 125 feet or so of passage, and definitely got into the dark zone. We saw one bat and big ugly black spiders. We explored the whole thing. I got my puffy coat wet squeezing through a narrow spot.

11/27: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky and Joe Zokaites. We went into Lightner Entrance and down to Third Breakdown. We started our survey where Nikki had left off on the last trip. Within two shots, we had tied into MMD27. We then did Sandy Way and got into the long lead that goes off to the northeast. It got too tight but keeps going. We did some other stuff and finally left at 9:30pm. Got out at 11:20pm (in at 10:30am). We did get 600 feet of survey.

12/3: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky and Joe Zokaites. We went into Lightner Entrance and down to Third Breakdown. We continued in the same area where we left off last week, surveying a long finger to the southwest, and then finally finding the route to the “Ludington stream”. We got to the stream and found it was not sumped going upstream, although it is a belly crawl in water with maybe a foot of air space. It was hard to tell because of the reflections. However, you could hear water cascading upstream, indicating that it wasn't sumped. Definitely need a wetsuit for that one. Downstream was a narrow crack with deep water. Possible to continue but couldn't really tell without a total submersion. It was a good 13-hour trip with 652 feet in the book.

