

Carbide Dump

A large, glowing orange and yellow carbide dump, likely a piece of machinery or a large rock, set against a dark background. The dump is the central focus, with a bright, almost white light source illuminating it from the right, creating a strong contrast and highlighting its rough, textured surface. The background is dark and appears to be a rocky or industrial setting.

May 2024
Vol 59, No 04

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.

EXCHANGE MAIL

Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018-5402
H: 540-989-7693
email: sockvmss@cox.net

EDITORS

David & Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018-5402
H: 540-989-7693
email: sockvdr@cox.net or sockvmss@cox.net

TRIP COORDINATOR

Susan Burr
4544 Cordell Dr SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
H: 540-989-5809
email: pondlady97@gmail.com

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.

GROTTO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**Chair**

Nick Schmalenberger
C: 530-574-5395
nick@schmalenberger.us

Vice-Chair

David Socky
C: 540-529-1591
sockvdr@cox.net

Secretary

Marian McConnell
C: 540-309-4707
marian.mcconnell@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kelly Perkins
C: 919-710-0396
perkinskm13@gmail.com

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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, Kelly Perkins, Nick Schmalenberger, Jeff Huffman, Doug Feller, Dylan Kelly, Earl Sutor, Dave Jackson, Zenah Orndorff, Nikki Fox and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Red cave bacon in Pritt (Singularity) Cave, Alleghany Co, VA. Photo by Dave Socky

CAVERS CALENDAR

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

May 17-19: 2024 Spring MAR Field Meet @ McClure Bean Soup Festival Grounds, McClure, PA. hosted by Bald Eagle Grotto. See <http://mar.caves.org>

May 22-28: Speleofest, Lone Star Cave Preserve, Bonnieville KY. See [link](#).

June 2-8: Virginia Cave Week. <https://vacaveweek.com>

June 7-9: WVACS Classic, Renick, WV. \$35 camping, caving, and dinner Saturday. See page 36.

June 21: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

June 21-23: Karst-O-Rama, Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve, Livingston, KY <https://karstorama.com>

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

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

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

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

Sept 27-29: Fall VAR, @ Hungry Mother Lutheran Camp, Marion, VA. Hosted by Eric Landgraf, John King, and members of Out of Bounds Grotto.

Fall 2024: TAG will be held at the Lazy G Ranch, Union Grove, AL. Date and details TBD.

Nov 7-10, 2024: Karst Waters Institute 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium, Lewisburg, WV. Save the date!

Nov 9, 2024: WVCC Banquet, Lewisburg, WV in conjunction with the Appalachian Karst Symposium.

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/>

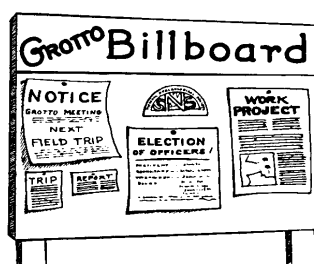
Treasurer's Report 05/07/2024

Cave Bucks	\$ 110.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
<u>General</u>	<u>\$6,910.34</u>
Total	\$7,167.42

Membership

The 2024 BRG membership packets have finally been mailed! BRG has 53 members & 5 subscribers for 2024.

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 ~



BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

The May 17, 2024 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 presentation by **Eric Stanley** from Blacksburg. The presentation will be about the **Blacksburg Rescue Cave Team**, a bit of the unit's genesis, capabilities and recent operations. The program will be about 45 minutes plus time for questions.

Grotto Trip

Scott Hollow, WV

Date & Time: Saturday, May 18, 2024. Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market at **8:30 am**.

Leaders: Jeff Huffman.

Coordination: Susan Burr 540-580-9409
pondladv97@gmail.com

Requirements: Horizontal Cave, medium difficulty. If you wish to go, let Susan Burr know.

Limit: No limit

Description

Scott Hollow Cave is large multi mile mega system. There is a lot of cave with a great variety of passage. This months' trip is planned to be a intermediate trip with no vertical work required. However there are a few climbs with a little exposure where a webbing handline is useful. There is also Mastodon Avenue, which is a few thousand feet long. It is known as 'Drag Ass Hill' because of the long climb on the way out.

The trip will tour the Omega Loop Trail. This will take 4 to 6 hours, depending on the group's pace (and route-finding ability).



Formations in Scott Hollow Cave. photo by Doug Feller - 11/20/2004

Virginia Cave Week

Virginia Cave Week is **June 2-8, 2024**, sponsored by the Virginia Cave Board.

So far we have two major events happening, but we could use more.

Does your grotto want to host an event? It could be as simple as making a cave display at the local library for the week, or giving a talk to school kids (though it might be too late for public school students), or leading a walk and talk at one of the sites along the Virginia Cave and Karst Trail.

Please let me know at my email address merecaver@yahoo.com if your grotto is interested. It could be an avenue to getting new members, but certainly it will help educate the public about the importance of caves and karst!

Thanks,
Meredith Hall Weberg
Virginia Cave Board



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!

Camps Gulf Cave, TN: Nick Schmalenberger asked if anyone would be interested in going to **Camps Gulf Cave, TN** post-NSS Convention? (July 6 or so.) This is a SCCi preserve. Let Nick know if you are interested. nick@schmalenberger.us

Safety & Techniques: (from NCRC), NCRC has a safety rule that *locking* carabiners must be used on cow's tails when participating in NCRC events.

Al Stewart NSS Brick: the NSS advised us to void the check for the brick for Al Stewart – it was lost in the changing of the bookkeepers. We need to re-submit the check since it was lost; then the brick will be made.

VAR Closed Cave List can be found at this [link](#). Please send changes and updates to Brad Blase at blase@virginiacaves.org.

Bat Cave Closures -

Some WV and VA caves have closed for the **summer—maternity colonies** of bats. Other caves may be open. The summer closure does not affect all caves. Check the closed list, and please go elsewhere if your intended cave is closed.

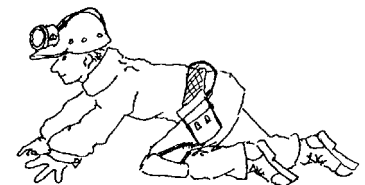
There are thousands of caves in the Virginia.

Virginia - Closed Apr. 15 - Oct. 15 for bat maternity colonies. (Summer Closure in effect.)

West Virginia – Closed May 15—Sept. 1 - for bat maternity colonies. (Summer Closure in effect).

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

Please respect all cave closures.



Maxwelton Mop Up in H Canyon

Article and Photos by *Dave Socky*

Since the start of the resurvey in 2019, I've been in McClung Cave, WV 100 times, so I eagerly joined Nick's mop-up survey on Saturday, March 23 in Maxwelton in order to do something different for a change. And besides, I hadn't been in Maxwelton since December of 2022 – well over a year! The plan was to clean up loops and push leads in the H Canyon maze area. It was also the plan to get at least 600 feet of new survey in order to put the Great Savannah Cave System over 54 miles!

We met at the Scott Entrance on a cloudy morning at 10am. Luckily the rain had stopped. We had seven covers for two teams on this trip, but as it turned out, only six of us went in. Nick Socky had made an offer to purchase a house in Blacksburg so he had to stay outside so he could contact his real estate agent if needed. That left us with two teams of three each: Joe Zokaites, Alina Valop, and I were on one team, while Alex Faunce, Nikki Fox, and Eli Meyer were the second team. Nick distributed printouts of the map and leads and we were on our way by 10:45am.

This was not a vertical trip, so we took the route in where you bypass the 30-foot rope by doing the belly crawl and funky ledge, which has nails to make it easier. The crawlway to the Monkey Fecal Passage and then the Toilet Bowl was the same as ever and then we turned left at the Latte Room, heading for the entrance to H Canyon.

At the start of H Canyon is a short scary traverse to the left of a 30-foot drop to the stream below. The traverse has a somewhat slanted, muddy footstep with no good hand holds and is easier if you are long legged. It is a spot where Ed Saugstad refused to go to anymore after scaring himself senseless a few times. However, last year, Nick put in a traverse line around the drop which makes the move a lot safer and easier. He also put in a webbing handline down the 15-foot climb down into the H Canyon proper. It's a place you still want to be very careful at, but I was a lot happier doing it this time.

H Canyon was as cool as ever – a 50-foot-high canyon which is 10 to 15 feet wide in spots with a small stream flowing down the center. Near the beginning are sets of intricate helictites, soda straws, and yellow white blobs of calcite. A few spots have infeasible waterfalls with beautifully formed flowstone on the floor. Near the end of H Canyon is a section where you have to climb up high, requiring fun steps across the narrow canyon and slippery stemming in order to stay high. Some places were a bit of a challenge for our short-legged crew members.

At the end of H Canyon, you climb up high



Alina coming out of the crawl that ended.

into what looks like a terminus breakdown only to pop out into a large room called the Brokedown Room. From here it was just a short jaunt to the entry into the H Canyon Maze. There are two ways into the maze. The way I've done it before is a narrow awkward canyon which you have to squirm through sideways, then a low, wet, muddy crawlway tube which eventually pops out into a small room. The other way is through a low, but dry belly crawl which I couldn't fit through last time I was there. Nick swore they had dug the crawl out and that I could now fit. Ok – I was willing to try it. And, low and behold, I did fit, barely. Within minutes we were at the start of the 'Big Person' survey. Joe and I were the 'big persons'!

We agreed with the other team to meet back at the start of the crawl at 8pm. Our lead was the first right hand turn. We crawled in, following survey stations until we got to a low room with 4 leads taking off from all directions. The survey stations ended here, so we got our gear out and started surveying.

We went around to the right to start out, bypassing a miserable looking crawl, but ended up pushing a low breakdown crawl until Alina couldn't fit anymore. PUD shot. Back at the last intersection, we cut back around and tied back into our first station. That left two leads. We took the left at our first station and after going through a tight squeeze, we

(Continued on page 31)



Joe Zokaites taking a shot.

(Continued from page 30)

popped out into a larger passage. Surprise – we found footprints and modern survey stations. We tied into the previous US6 station and then went over to SR6, where we figured the left lead there would tie back into our skipped miserable looking crawl. It did, and in the process, we had killed off 6 leads!

We still had a couple of hours left, so we proceeded further into the maze, killing off leads left and right (most were simple little loops that hadn't been surveyed before, plus one water crawl which was marked as Too Tight, but we actually got 40 feet of survey before it really got too tight. We finally ran out of time and headed back to our meetup point.

We were ten minutes late, but the other team wasn't there. However, there was a digging bar set up at the entrance to the tight exit crawl. We waited another 10 to 15 minutes and then decided they must



There were some formations.

have left early, leaving the digging bar as an indication that they had exited. We left a note just in case and then headed out.

At the start of H Canyon, we found Nikki's seat harness at the bottom of the climb down. She had left it there on the way in because it wasn't needed anymore. So, they hadn't left before us after all. We climbed up, crossed the traverse, and started out when the other group caught up with us. So, as it turned out, we exited as a group after all. We climbed out of the entrance culvert to a chilly night at 11:05pm after a good 12.5 -hour trip. Unfortunately, we didn't get the 600 feet we needed. We got close – 440 feet, so the next trip into either Maxwellton or McClung Cave will make the Great Savannah Cave System 54 miles. (Also, Nick didn't get the house – he was outbid) 🐾

Lost World Caverns, WV - Wild Cave Trip Report

By *Susan Burr*

Date: 3/16/2024

Participants: Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman (Leader), Kelly Perkins, Logan Van Hon (guest), Erin Van Hon (guest), Abbey Mays (guest), Alexander Koch (guest).

We did the normal route we usually do. We saw Lots & Lots of pretty formations. Unfortunately we don't know the names of the different areas. I do know that apparently the latter section we went to was called the Sewer. I am just not sure what part of that latter sec-

tion. One part was a fun narrow passage with a few slightly difficult parts. It ended for most at a small waterfall, however, Jeff & Logan climbed above the waterfall & did part of the upper section. Once out of that passage, Jeff, Logan & I opted to do a just for fun small passage that has a very tight & difficult hole to get out of. The guys had more trouble than me since they are bigger. Lots of pictures taken there!

Our last section was through a crawl with lots of mud sculptures. It ended at some more pretty formations. Then we had to go through another super tight & this time very wet hole to get out. Luckily we saved this for last so we weren't wet for very long since we headed straight out.

We did notice that Mike Phelps had a group there doing Grapevine Pit. On the way out of the tourist part of the cave, we got to see 2 cavers coming down the ropes. I also got to speak with Mike for a bit inside the gift shop. He invited Jeff, Kelly & me to come up to see the new



Formations in Lost World. Photo by Jeff Huffman

rigging Steve Silverberg has come up with.

Our overall time in the cave was just under 4 hours. We thanked Steve multiple times for allowing us to come. I also discussed with Steve the possibility of us trying to come sometime during the summer to do Grapevine Pit. 🐾



The crew, taken with Jeff Huffman's camera.

McClung Cave - Lower Gymnasium, WV

By *David Socky*

It was WVACS Project Weekend and I was considering several possibilities for a survey in McClung Cave, WV. I still hadn't decided what to do by Friday night, but going into the McClung Historic entrance was out, since there needed to be at least 48 hour notice in asking Mystik Miller for access to that entrance.

Ultimately, we decided on going into the Lightner Entrance and doing a good lead at the end of the Lower Gymnasium. Our team for this day (April 13, 2024) was Nikki Fox, Kelly McCarthy, Rob Wardell, and I. It was a somewhat unique trip, since we were all experienced sketchers, plus between the 4 of us, we had five DistoX2s and plenty of sketch books. We only took in three Distos and two books, though.

We took a drill and digging supplies plus a hammer and sledge. This was the lead that looked like it would need only one straw: it was 18 feet deep, and was vertical. So we brought our vertical gear too.

Our trip down the Lightner Entrance, up Broomstick Passage, and into the Gymnasium was uneventful. A little route finding with the map got us down into the Lower Gymnasium and to our lead.

It turned out the rock was not good for straws, but broke up pretty easily with the rock hammer and sledge. After about an hour of work between the four of us, it was large enough to get in.

Rob went in first. The small hole belled out almost immediately into a 12-foot



Rob Wardell rappelling into the newly dug lead.
Photo by Dave Socky

wide room with wet canyon passages going in two directions - upstream and downstream.

While I was still at the top, we started the survey and then I rappelled down the 19 foot deep drop. We decided to go downstream first since it was the direction that was going into 'white space'.

The stream passage started out wet, but after only a little bit, it was possible to traverse the passage and stay dry. The canyon was about 3 to 4 feet wide and 10 to 15 feet high. There were sections of breakdown where we had to scramble a bit, but it was not hard. To our surprise, we found very old boot prints in muddy sections of the passage. Damn, we weren't in virgin passage. This passage was certainly not on the old map. Where did they come from? There was no way they had come in the way we

did. The hole we hammered open was only 4 to 5 inches wide.

Then I considered the upstream passage where we had started the survey. Going upstream was headed back toward a known passage which had a lead which was too tight for us to get through. Except for Bill Koerschner, who had squeezed through and reported 50 feet of going passage. He had turned around in a dome (turned out it was where we had rappelled in). We figured that a very thin caver from the original survey in the 70s had explored this passage, but they didn't survey it.

We kept surveying until we got to a spot where the passage got too tight. We left one lead - a belly crawl for small people. Kelly could barely fit, but there was no way Rob or I would fit.

We did one side lead, which was an upper level crawl which went over the top of the main passage, but got too tight.

Back at the rope, the canyon went upstream but just after 20 feet, we found BRB38. This was the lead that Bill Koerschner had gotten into, but no one else could fit. We tied into it, making a nice little loop and killing two leads (and leaving one lead).

It was a good 10 hour trip in which we surveyed 630 feet, all of it new (although only 100 feet or so was virgin). The Great Savannah Cave System is now over 54 miles long! 🐾

The Favorite Five

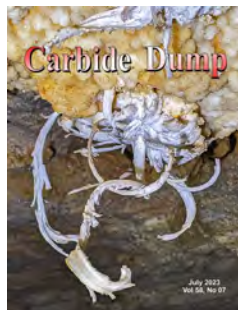
These 5 **CARBIDE DUMP** covers were selected to be entered in the NSS Cover Art Salon.

Keep your fingers crossed, and be sure to visit the **NSS Art Salon** July 1-5, 2024, in Sewanee, TN, to see who won!

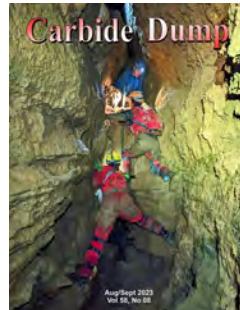
The covers are much more stunning in color – look at them on-line for the best viewing at <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>. 🐾



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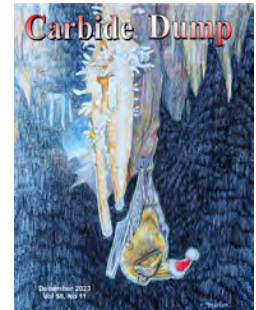
July 2023 v58 n7



Aug/Sept 2023 v58 n8



October 2023 v58 n9



Dec 2023 v58 n11

Grotto Trip Log

2/17: New River Cave, VA. The Blue Ridge Grotto had a great 5-hour trip into New River Cave. Jeff Huffman, Lauren Appel, Kelly Perkins, Nick Schmalenberger, Lisa Boutwell Graves, Isaiah Hall, & myself were all on the trip. We actually found the China Slide going in, but of course it took a bit of looking around. Same story when we got to the bottom of it. Trying to find the route out to the stream. None the less, we made it to the waterfall upstream. Afterwards we headed back out & went to the Forest Room. That too took a bit of scouting around, but we made it. This room is full of pretty formations. Of course, I forgot my camera in the car & I was too far up the trail & it was WAY too cold, so I didn't go back to get it. (Susan Burr)

3/16: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Matt Centofanti, and Andrew Allard. We went back to the end of the Broomstick Room near the Second Breakdown to survey the rest of this passage we didn't find on the previous trip. The way on turned out to be really obvious and I was really disappointed in myself for not finding it on the previous trip. Some really nice stuff, but also some crawly and gnarly stuff. It was a good 13.5-hour trip with 736 feet of survey. 300 feet of it was new.

3/16: Lost World Caverns, WV (Wild section) – Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman (leader), Kelly Perkins, Abbey Mays (guest), Alexander Koch (guest), Logan and Erin Van Hon (guests). See article on page 31. (Susan Burr)

3/20: Pasco Dig, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Keith Sweeney, Rick Lambert, and Bill Koerschner. We did technical digging on the same hole we ended our day on 2/21. We spent most of the day widening the way down and then did a number of straws to get through the next tight spot. There is still more to do, but rocks roll a good ways down. Just can't tell how wide it is yet. We quit around 4:45pm

3/22: Trish Geiger reported on going to **Ana Te Pahu lava tube** on Easter Island of Chile, South America.

3/23: Maxwellton Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, and Alina Valop. Team 2: Nikki Fox, Alex Faunce, and Eli Meyer. We went to H Canyon to mop up leads. We were trying to get 600 feet to get the Great Savannah Cave System to 54 miles. But only got 467 feet. Next time. It was a good 13-hour trip.

3/24: Nick Schmalenberger reported that he and Martin DiLeggi worked on a promising dig that is blowing air.

4/10: Pasco Dig, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Amos Mincin, Jim Schurman, Keith Sweeney, and Rick Lambert. Another dig on the Pasco Dig (temporarily named Das Boot Cave). We made about 7 feet of progress, doing about 5 or 6 technical digs. The way on looks grim. Amos did recover my boot, plus he was able to snag my dropped camera case.

4/13: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Nikki Fox, Kelly McCarthy, and Rob Wardell. Went into Lightner entrance and to the Lower Gymnasium dig lead. We got through the dig with a rock hammer and a sledge. It was a 19-foot-deep drop, vertical gear required. We surveyed 633 feet of new cave, but only some of it was virgin. **The Great Savannah Cave System is now over 54 miles long!**

4/17: Climbing at River Rock Climbing gym with Dave Socky (reported by Nick Schmalenberger). We can't use our caving harnesses for climbing, but they let us use their spare gear. We may plan another night in 2 weeks if enough interest. Perhaps we can have a vertical practice there on a regular basis too?

4/27: Unnamed Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Mark Minton, Jacob Whitlock. We went to the historic downstream section to place dye traps in preparation of dye tracing efforts in the Warm Springs Project area. We entered the cave around 11:00am. We collected a previously placed dye trap, then headed downstream.

Lot of climbing up and down and between and through large breakdown blocks. There was a slippery slot to climb up, then back down to the water. Some short duck under spots to go through. Then there is the sump bypass. An old wooden ladder, with modern nails makes this climb up a piece of cake. At the top is where the cable ladder must be rigged. The way down is a narrow slot with a bit of a traverse, and then another tight awkward spot to go down. Then it's not bad. But the cable ladder is a pain in the ass. Especially getting back up. To be honest, it wasn't as bad as I was afraid it would be.

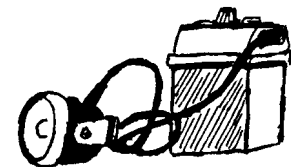
It was narrow enough that Jacob was worried about being able to climb back out. So, Jacob waited at the top of the climb while Mark and I went downstream with the traps.

After the cable ladder drop there is a water filled passage with a very deep floor channel which can be avoided if you don't slip off the sloping slippery underwater ledge. Eventually there is a large water-filled room near the end of the downstream section. Going through another narrow spot, we got to the room where there was a large infeeder to the right. The water was clear and cold, so most

likely not from Mud Pot Cave. Mark put a dye trap in the infeeder and collected a sample of water. We then went a little further downstream in the main stream and placed the third trap. We were out by 3:30 pm for a nice 4.5-hour trip.

5/1: Dressler Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bill Koerschner, Rick Lambert, Jim Schurman, and Keith Sweeney. We found this cave on the Dressler property (where Mud Pot is located). It had been noted before by Keith many years ago, but never explored. It was a pretty large near vertical entrance. I went in first and slid down a steep short slope which ended at a vertical drop off of about 15 feet into a large dry room. We rigged a cable ladder and then I went down to check out the room. I checked all the easy leads first, none of which went. The final lead required a climb up, then climbing down a windy phreatic narrow canyon for about 12 feet. But the last 6 feet was undercut with no foot holds to get back up. I couldn't tell if it continued, but it sounded like a dead end - not enticing. I decided not to try to climb down. I climbed back up and out and reported my finds. It was decided that this would be a perfect cave for the RASS survey students to survey, so I climbed back out and derigged the ladder. We spent the rest of the day ridge walking and then some work on one of the digs on the Pasco property.

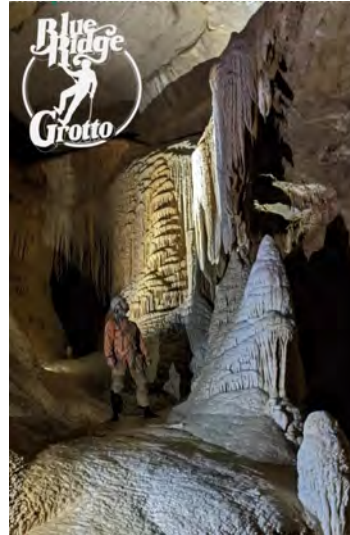
5/4: Simmons Mingo Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Carl Amundson, Nikki Fox, Hunter Campbell, and three others. This was spring VAR led trip. Nikki and Hunter were the trip leaders. They took us on a loop that required doing about 7 or 8 vertical pitches, both up and down. Nothing difficult except one spot where you had to pull yourself over about 3 feet to the edge with a tag line to get off rope. All other drops/climbs were pretty easy and short. We went in the main large upper entrance, down the big rooms and through the Jar of Gravel (a vertical 3-D breakdown maze). There was one tight spot, but an easy exposed climb allowed you to bypass it on the way out. We went all the way down to the stream before we had to do any rope work. It was a fun 5 hour sport trip.



BRG Flyer

Kelly Perkins has created a BRG Flyer. The flyer will be 4 x 6 inches, two sided, and in color. It will have a QR code for our BRG website: www.blueridgegrotto.org for contact information.

The cost would be \$40 for 250 copies. These can be used at public events like the CaveSim event in July, GoFest, at the River Rock Climbing Wall, and other venues and events. 🐾



BRG Flyer front



BRG Flyer back

Bland County Sinkhole Cleanup - Thank You!

Hi everybody,

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to everyone who came out last weekend to help a landowner who owns caves. She was so pleased! In fact, she said to "please give the others my heartfelt thanks." She was impressed by "seeing so many people interested in conservation and enjoying the Fellowship!"

I know several of you visited Coon Cave, which she (Sandra Harman) owns.

If you have photos of the cave, I would love to forward them to her. I ended up being a wuss and not going to Coon Cave, even though I'd been planning to.

Who was telling me about a large free site (maybe a Googly thing...) where nonprofits can store and share files? I'd like to set up a place where we could all share photos we took of the sinkhole cleanup--everyone could make their own folder so we all know who took each

photo. I might like to use some of them for an article for the *NSS News*, and of course, the *Region Record*.

For now, though, I'm attaching the group shot that Gracie took at the end of the day. And a before and after shot of the sinkhole.

Sincere thanks to you all!

Meredith 🐾



The crew of cavers at the Bland County Sinkhole Cleanup. Photo by Meredith Weberg



Heavy equipment was used for the Bland County Sinkhole Cleanup. Photo by Meredith Weberg

The Central Appalachian Cave Rescue Team

Dear Fellow Cavers,

I have given several grotto meeting talks on our new fledgling rescue team which is currently under development [The Central Appalachian Cave Rescue Team](#) (we changed our name to this *from* Eastern Region Cave Rescue Team at the request of the Eastern Region NCRC to avoid confusion).

If you would like me to give a meeting talk on the CACRT to your grotto or club let me know. Also let me know if

you have any ideas about grants, donors, sponsors, patrons, or anything else you feel may be helpful please let me know.

We are currently developing a website, financials, grants, insurance, equipment caches, training standards, incorporating and meeting Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) requirements.

Earl Suitor

Cell: 703-431-2661
[text or call any time] 🐾

CaveSim is coming to Virginia in July

Cave Sim will be in the east for most of July. The schedule is shown below:

July 1-5	NSS Convention, Sewanee, TN
July 6	Bristol, TN. Sugar Hollow Park
July 9, 10	Richmond, VA. The Children's Museum of Richmond.
July 11	Grottoes, Grand Caverns
July 12, 13	Roanoke. Fri: Washington Park . Sat: Wasena Park
July 14	Blacksburg. Kipps Elementary School

For the Roanoke event, Friday and Saturday, Dave Jackson of CaveSim says "I expect that it will indeed be helpful for us to have volunteers. For instance, cavers can help with the CaveSim SRT tower (the 12-foot-tall yellow A-frame that you've seen at NSS Conventions in the past), with the CaveSim squeezebox, and with teaching kids about cave conservation before/after they explore the CaveSim trailer."

And some background from Zena Orndorff, who is organizing the July CaveSim events - "A little background - I applied for a CCV grant last fall which

is funding 5 days + travel expenses for the July events. The proposal indicated we'd target higher population areas - Richmond (2 days), Harrisonburg, Roanoke, and Bristol. I contacted Roanoke Parks and Rec about collaborating with a venue, and they were so enthused they subsequently got funding from USFS for a second day in Roanoke. We added a Blacksburg day to take advantage of this opportunity while CaveSim is in the area, but currently only have half the funding for it (still need ~\$1000). In addition to topping off the Bburg day we're hoping to have extra funds for educational materials to distribute to attendees. CaveSim provides some of that, but we'd like to do more, including adding some Virginia specific materials. *If BRG would be willing to put a little something towards the July events it would be greatly appreciated, and if you're interested in volunteering at any of the events let me know* (For the schedule, specific times TBD, at minimum 10am-4pm). We'll be putting out info at VAR so hopefully that will bring in more donations.

VAR is handling the money for the July events. Donation checks should indicate "CaveSim in VA 2024" in the memo and be sent to:

VAR c/o Carol Tiderman
2901 Moreland Gap Rd
New Market, VA 22844 🐾

BRG Stickers

Kelly Perkins provided samples of the stickers along with a price list. Three sticker samples were passed around at the April BRG Grotto meeting. Take a look so we can decide what BRG should purchase.

Regular Individual Stickers
Qty 100 at \$118.00
Qty 200 at \$174.00

Regular Stickers on a roll
Qty 100 at \$99.00
Qty 200 at \$140.00

Regular Easy Peel
Qty 100 at \$121.00
Qty 200 at \$180.00

Holographic Individual Stickers
Qty 100 at \$129.00
Qty 200 at \$194.00 🐾



Regular



Holographic

WVACS Classic



June 7 - 9, 2024 WVACS Field Station, Greenbrier Valley, WV

Welcome back to West Virginia caving!

The 2024 WVACS Classic will be June 7-9 at the WVACS field station, which is located between Frankford and Renick in Greenbrier County.

So what exactly is the WVACS Classic?

The event is hosted by the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies (WVACS) and offers covers an introduction into project caving and various aspects of project caving that we do! The Classic also offers a place for people new to caving an experience of the underground.

There will be guided cave trips, self-led trips, digging trips, survey trips, and sport trips going on during the WVACS Classic. There will be a sketchers workshop for those who have always wanted to learn the art of sketching. We also have a climbing tower to learn single-rope techniques for vertical caving or fine tune your vertical system.

On Saturday night there will be a catered dinner offered, followed by a caving presentation and music to boogie the night away.

Our facilities offer bunks for sleeping, but space is limited in the number of beds inside the buildings. There is plenty of room for tent camping.

The cost of the event will be \$35 dollars and covers use of the facilities and dinner Saturday night. You can pre-pay on our website or pay upon arrival at the event. Pre-paying ensures you get a meal, otherwise we cannot guarantee food. If you do not want dinner it is \$20 to attend.

Please fill out the registration/event form below so we know how to plan the event and to tell us what your interested in doing.

Stay tuned for more details, see y'all soon!

Event Form: <https://forms.gle/782gxkXF4ES1EbmE8>

Our website — <http://wvacs.org/classic/>





OUT OF BOUNDS GROTTO

FALL VAR 2024

outofboundsgrotto.org

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29

Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat
Marion, VA