

Carbide Dump



June 2024
Vol 59, No 05

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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Cover: Flowstone in Mystic River in Scott Hollow Cave, WV. Photo by Lauren Appel

CAVERS CALENDAR

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 12-13: CaveSim visits Washington Park and Wasena Park in Roanoke, VA! Volunteers are needed. Contact Zenah Orndorff (zenahviola@gmail.com) for more info.

July 14: CaveSim visits Blacksburg, VA! Volunteers are needed. For more info contact Zenah Orndorff (zenahviola@gmail.com).

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

July 31: TRA Membership applications must be received by the TRA Secretary by this date.

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

Aug 29- Sept 2: Old Timers Reunion. You must be a TRA member or guest of an on-site TRA member. See <https://otr.org/about/membership/>

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

Sept. 20-22: Eastern Region NCRC is offering a weekend course, **Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR)** held at Elkins WV Fire Dept.; camping at OTR site in Dailey, WV. See <https://ncrc-er.caves.org/> for updates on registration and class info. Questions: Larry Manning Larry.Manning@caves.org Registration opens June 1, 2024.

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

Oct -6, 2024: TAG will be held at the Lazy G Ranch, Union Grove, AL. Date and details TBD.

Oct 3-6: CaveSim may return to the valley during the annual *Roanoke Go-Fest!* More info soon.

Nov 7-10: Karst Waters Institute 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium, Lewisburg, WV. Meetings, field trip on Saturday & Banquet Saturday night. See <https://karstwaters.org/conferences/appalachian-karst-symposium-2024/> for info. Questions: appkarst2024@karstwaters.org

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

06/03/2024

Cave Bucks	\$ 110.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$6,555.49
Total	\$6,812.57

BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

The **June 21, 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 slide program about Warm River Cave in Alleghany County, VA. The program was produced by Mark Minton for a presentation given to the Charlottesville Grotto. The program has 68 slides and should be about 20 minutes.

Grotto Trip

There will be no official trip this month. Apparently, everyone is running around doing summer vacation stuff.



Membership

Membership Proposals:

Abbey Mays began caving in 2020 and has been on three BRG cave trips and two vertical skills practices. She loves caving and likes hanging around River Rock Climbing Wall. Nick Schmalenberger, NSS # 62709, is Abbey's sponsor, seconded by Susan Burr, NSS # 53888. Abbey's application is tabled until the June 21, 2024 BRG meeting.

Alexander Koch began caving in 2021 and enjoys the underground. He has been on two BRG cave trips and two Parks & Rec cave trips. Nick Schmalenberger, NSS # 62709, is Alexander's sponsor, seconded by Susan Burr, NSS # 53888. Alexander's application is tabled until the June 21, 2024 BRG meeting.

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 ~

Cave Softly

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). Let Nick know if you are interested. nick@schmalenberger.us

New Eastern Region NCRC Coordinator – Many thanks to Tony Smith, who will be retiring as Regional Coordinator. The NCRC Board of Regional Coordinators (BORC) voted to make the recommendation of the current Assistant Regional Coordinator, Larry Manning, as the new ER-NCRC Regional Coordinator to the NSS Board of Governors. The BOG will install Larry at Convention.

In the meantime, Tony and Larry will be tag teaming things. Please include both of them in any emails concerning the Region. You may also reach both of them at: eastern@ncrc.info (from *Region Record* v37n1p9)

Blue Ridge Grotto Google Groups:

as of 4/13/24 there are about 10 who have not signed up for the BRG Google Group. The Officers have made individual calls and sent messages to those people to give them a final chance. If they don't accept the invitation, they will no longer receive the emails (meeting announcements, newsletters, etc.) **GOOGLE MAIL BRG GROUP:** The group set up is for BRG members only. MarySue has a list of prospective members and exchanges (other Grottos) that she and Dave are weeding out to make current, so they will continue to get a copy of the message(s). If anyone wants to share a trip or activity with a non-member, they can forward it individually to that person(s) "ad hoc". blueridgegrotto@googlegroups.com.

BRG FLYERS AND STICKERS:

Samples of the BRG 2 sticker designs along with a price list were shared at the April BRG meeting and in the *Carbide Dump*. Marian moved that 500 flyers and 250 of each of the 2 style stickers be purchased, hopefully to have in time for the CaveSim events in July. It PASSED unanimously; so Kelly can order these now.

BRG CAVING EQUIPMENT –

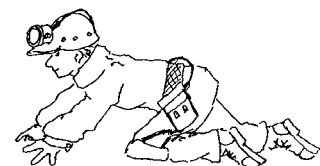
MarySue Socky provided a list of caving equipment we have on hand. Dave gave it to Nick. It lists helmets, lights, bash (First Aid) kits, etc. We need to set up a date and time to go through it all and see about replacing/upgrading it; especially the helmets and lights. Nick suggested we have a BRG day where we do that and also practice some vertical work off the tree in Socky's backyard. Marian suggested in early November. TABLED until October.

CaveSim will be in Roanoke July 12 & 13, 2024 and in Blacksburg on July 14, 2024. Per Dylan Kelly, they have enough funding for Roanoke. Blacksburg needs help. Dave Socky moved that BRG donate \$250 for the Blacksburg event. Susan Burr seconded, and it PASSED unanimously. Per Zenah Orndorff: VAR is overseeing 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 Tideman; 2901 Moreland Gap Rd; New Market, VA 22844 (Anyone can donate toward an upcoming CaveSim visit.) What is CaveSim? <https://www.cavesim.com/>

Funding is being solicited for CaveSim to come back to Roanoke VA, October 18-20, 2024 GoFest in Roanoke; TABLED until we know what the needs are to decide if we want to donate toward this visit.

CaveSim is lots of fun, and welcomes volunteers to help, work with the public through CaveSim. Contact Zenah Orndorff (zenahviola@gmail.com) for more info.

(Continued on page 40)



New Cave Books Available

"Speleothems: A guide to speleothem form and identification"

by Will White, Dan Doctor, and Sarah Carmichael

Check this out! An awesome, rugged guide to speleothems...at a very reasonable price. Produced by the illustrious and industrious folks at the Karst Waters Institute: [click for Facebook link](#).

Get yours while supplies last! (from [Speleobooks](#), no less)

A must have for cavers!!!

Be the first caver in your grotto to own one....or the second, or third. et cetera...

You've wondered what those formations were and how they formed, didn't you? You've probably been making things up. Well now you can learn more.. educate yourself!

Cheers,
Wil Orndorff

(Announcements continued from page 39)

FUTURE VAR - Nick Schmalenberger asked if **BRG would like to host the Spring VAR 2025?** Susan Burr suggested the Fall one might be better, weather-wise.

- Who would be interested in helping (as leaders or volunteers) sponsor a VAR in Spring of 2025 in Bath County at the RASS property?
- We would need people to coordinate the various activities and logistics: dinner, treasurer, vendors, portapotties, registration, guidebook, social media; as well as volunteers to help in the various tasks.
- There is a handbook on how to host a VAR, the last one BRG hosted was in 2008.

TABLED for further discussion at the June 21 BRG meeting. Please let Nick Schmalenberger know if you are interested nick@schmalenberger.us

NSS: CONGRESS OF GROTTOS (COG) BRG needs a representative at the Congress of Grottoes at Convention in July in Sewanee, TN. Is anyone going who would be willing to at-

"Basic Vertical Techniques"

by Hazel Barton

Eric Langraff : For those interested, the first edition of the Vertical Training Commission's "Basic Vertical Techniques" has been published, and is available from the NSS bookstore:

<https://members.caves.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?ID=23983479>

This book promises to be a good read for those who are rusty on their vertical or spend a lot of time teaching novices in their club.

George Dasher - The NSS's new book, *Basic Vertical Techniques*, by Hazel Barton is out.

LOOKS REALLY REALLY NICE!! REALLY!!

Full color and just over 100 pages.

tend? There are 3 current issues to be addressed:

1. For NSS to publish the Membership Manual in hard copy version,
2. For the NSS to print in hard copy the NSS Journal,
3. For the NSS to have harsher penalties for violations of the NSS Code of Conduct.

See <https://caves.org/org/congress-of-grottos/> for more information, or contact Craig Hindman via Internal Organizations <io@caves.org>

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

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

Breathing Cave VA

If you plan on visiting Breathing Cave, there is now a PDF of the waiver on the BCCS website so you can print it and fill it out in advance. Take your paper hardcopy to the trailhead and leave it in the box there.

If you fill it out in advance, you will have more time for caving and won't be scrounging around in the rain for a pen and a surface to write on. It also means less time fumbling around for emergency contact and other information at the trailhead. It also gives participants a chance to read the waiver in advance.

The owners intend to keep blank forms at the trailhead as in the past, but you are encouraged to print out a waiver from the website. It helps the owners ensure there are enough blank forms for everyone. The owners are very generous in allowing continued access to Breathing. Thank you everyone for your good behavior and for helping to keep the owners happy!

<http://butlercave.org/preserves/breathing.html>

At this time, there are no immediate plans to integrate the Breathing Cave waiver with the new BCCS online waiver system due to the differences in the waiver language. So you need a separate waiver for Breathing. Perhaps someday.

Reminder, Breathing Cave closes for the season on September 15.

Tony Canike, BCCS

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 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.



Mudpot Cave (VA) Data Logger & Dye Trap

Article and Photos by *Dave Socky*

On May 25, 2024, a crowd met at Keith Sweeney's house at 10am. There were four goals for the day: 1) Recover and replace dye traps in downstream end of **Warm River Cave** (Kat Wood, Noah, and Jacob Whitlock). 2) Recover and replace the data logger and dye trap in **Mud Pot** (Dave Socky, Bob Alderson, and Keith Sweeney). 3) Recover and replace dye traps in various locations in the Warm Springs Area. 4) Survey **Massie #1 Cave** (Bear Cave). This report is on item number 2 – **Mud Pot Cave**.

Keith Sweeney helped with the driving and pit rigging while Bob Alderson and I went in the cave. I went down first. It was hot! I guessed it was around 85 degrees F. The pit is a wide, narrow canyon with really dark limestone. It's mostly freefall with a couple of shallow breakover points where padding was used. It was somewhat narrow near the top and had a narrow spot near the bottom.

At the bottom you could go two ways, down steep slopes to the water about 20 feet down. There was an obvious pool of water to the right, so when Bob got down, we went that way first. Noah had said there was a narrow canyon to squeeze through before getting to the data logger and dye trap. On hindsight, I should have gotten more specific directions.

Down at the pool was a narrow crack at water level, but no way was I getting

through that. But you could climb back up going further into the cave. It was steep, but not too hard. At the top, there was a passage going in about 20 feet that led to a downclimb. The water was down about 12 feet and looked pooled. It was a steep climb to get down with unknow hand/foot holds to get back up. I could see water boiling up from an underwater spring at the far end of the pool. We were at the upstream end of the cave. I finally climbed down with less problem than I thought I would have. But there was no sign of a data logger or dye traps.

The water was now cloudy so you couldn't see the bottom. Bob came in, traversed over the top, and went down into a small hole with water at the bottom to check if the narrow canyon was down there. It wasn't. Bob said it was a real challenge climbing back out.

I waited until the water cleared up but didn't see the data logger. I finally got down on my knees and searched in the mud at the bottom of the pool but didn't feel anything. The water was very warm, so I had no problem getting totally soaked. We finally gave up, so I placed the new data logger (taped to a brick)



Bob Alderson and Dave Socky after the trip
Photo by Keith Sweeney

and dye trap on a shelf at the end of the pool. It was in about a foot and a half of water. We slowly made our way back to the rope. Bob went back down the other way just to make sure, and sure enough, there was the narrow canyon, hidden from view unless you were right there. And ten feet in was the old data logger and dye trap. We found it!

So, I went all the way back to retrieve the new data logger and trap. It was so hot and humid that it was exhausting just to do little climbs. I retrieved the new data logger and trap, and while Bob climbed out, I replaced the old with the new.

Climbing out wasn't too bad, just slow. It felt good to get high enough to get some fresh air. We derigged the pit, packed up and headed over to Massie #1 Cave (Bear Cave).



Bob Alderson getting off rope.



View of pool of water from rope.



Water welling up at upstream end.

Sand Canyon survey in Butler Cave, VA

Article by *David Socky*, Photos by *Brian Mayfield*

Participants: David Socky (reporting), Bob Alderson, Brian Mayfield, Kat Wood, and Hope McAdam

On the Sunday (May 26, 2024) of the Memorial Day Work Weekend, I was looking for a relatively easy survey trip into Butler Cave. After discussions with Kelly McCarthy, it was decided that I would lead a team to Sand Canyon and pick up at the end of the previous survey of January 20, 2024. The tie-in would be RCC35, and we would continue on toward the Natural Bridge.

We entered the cave at about 11am (only an hour late) and headed directly to Sand

should be surveyed.

Our first shot was into a small passage that headed off to the north-west. It was a crawl that continued. We decided to just put a couple of shots into the lead and then continue down the main passage to the south-west. But before doing that, we surveyed an alcove along the south-east wall of the main passage. There were a couple of fingers going off the east, but they were



Kat Wood doing cross sections at BSF2

both too tight (BSF4-5 and BSF6-8).

We finally headed down the main passage, shooting from RCC35 to BSF9, passing to the right of a 25-foot-deep drop into the lower canyon. This drop was not free climbable but was probably accessible from the other climb down to the north-east of RCC35. Again, we left the lower section to be checked and surveyed on a future trip.

but passable.

From BSF9 we continued through the passage/room that just precedes the Natural Bridge. Up high on the left wall at BSF17 was a small lead which Kat pushed and surveyed. She got into a small standup room, but the continuation was too tight.

We ended the survey along the left wall at BSF23, with the Natural Bridge in sight to the west-southwest. By this time it was late in the day and I would have had to change pages to sketch in the large room where the Natural Bridge is located. So, I left that sketch for another trip. I have no problem giving someone else the privilege of sketching the room where the Natural Bridge is located ☺

We packed up our gear and made the long and arduous trip back out to the entrance. It was nice getting out with plenty of daylight left – it was 5 pm. 🐾



Dave Socky sketching at BSF5

Canyon. I found our tie spot, RCC35, with no problem. Of course, there were four ways to go from this point. To the right (north-east) was a climb down into a lower canyon, which was back the way the RCC survey had come. But it's a lower section of that route and probably

Continuing along the right-hand wall, we got into a side breakdown passage with holes to a lower level, which connected back into the main passage, but there were leads down there too. At BSF13 was a breakdown lead which goes low



The main passage between RCC35 and BSF9



breakdown lead at BSF13 is behind the caver in the back

Cave Trip - Seneca Caverns, WV

Article & Photos by *Kevin Johnson*

Carrie and I were in Monterey last weekend and decided to tour **Seneca Caverns** located in Riverton, West Virginia about forty-five minutes from Monterey, VA.

We had a private cave tour (we were the only people there) which lasted about one hour.

This cave surprised us. There are quite a few nice formations. Draperies, soda straws, popcorn and cave coral, bacon rind, dry and wet rimstone pools, columns, stalactites, and stalagmites. The major formation in the cave seemed to be flowstone. Our guide informed us that the flowstone contained calcite, magnesium oxide, and iron (🍷)

They made us wear helmets, which was a first.



Kevin Johnson and Carrie Douppnik



Ooh, colored lights. Fairy Land



WVACS Classic

June 8, 2024

Surveying rediscovered trunk passage in McClung Cave, WV. We surveyed nearly 500 feet with more still to do and still made it back in time for dinner!

Photos by Dave Socky



Grotto Trip Log

4/21: Goodwins Cave, VA by Susan Burr: Another fun filled day! Caving at Goodwin Cave with Jeff Huffman, Lauren Appel, Nick Schmalenberger, Kelly Perkins & Trish Geiger. We explored around the whole cave for the most part. Today the crawl/belly crawl that is really long, was partially full of water. I referred to this as the Crawl from Hell! We were wet from shoulders to toes. Still a fun! We saw 1 bat & several baby salamanders. Susan checked on proper way to clean off graffiti to share with landowner, John; he also said he was thinking about building a firepit and camping outside the cave, and would invite BRG.

4/26: Mary Sue & Dave Socky, Joey Fagan, and others went to Martinsville and ran into Lauren Appel at the **Natural History Museum**. There was a reception for a new book out on Isopods – 13 species.

4/27: Mary Sue Socky, Meredith Weberg, Joey Fagan and John Pearson participated at the **VAR conservation project in Bland County**; there were about 25 people there and some heavy equipment which made this an easy project. VPI took over with the excavation equipment. No passage was found at the bottom of the sink

5/4: Sharps Cave, WV – During VAR, Jeff Huffman and Nick Schmalenberger went to the waterfall; about 16 people did the trip.

5/8: Glass Bottle & Pasco digs, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, and Rick Royer. Worked on the **Glass Bottle Dig** and got down another 3 or 4 feet. Looked pretty bleak. We did one straw to get a larger rock out. But there were no openings and certainly not any air. We gave up on it and moved over to the **Pasco Dig**. Rick cleaned the spoils out from the last dig, I pulled buckets up from halfway down and Joe pulled the bucket up from the top, dumped the contents and sent the bucket back down. Rick got all the spoils out. The way on looked hopeless. No air. We gave up. By this time, the geology team was back. We all sat around and watched as Rick and Joe dug at another hole that had moss, but after getting down 4 feet, there was still nothing but dirt. They gave up.

5/18: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Nick Socky, Joe Zokaites, Alex Faunce, and Rebekah Dawn. This trip was to mop of leads in entrance canyon. Nick, Alex, and Rebekah went up the climbing pole passage to do the lead back there. Rebekah came back because it was too tight for her. We first

did the short stream canyon passage under the main route. We did a loop, coming back up through a small hole in the breakdown. We then went to the 'Pillar' come-around after the first section of canyon. That took about 5 shots and involved some fun mud climbs with exposure, but not too bad. We then went to the left side lead just after the second section of canyon. Before we started, Nick and Alex caught up with us and Nick decided to push the lead to see if it went, and survey out if it ended. It went!! After some initial tight wet stuff it opened up in places to hands and knee, stoop walk, and even a little walking. There were about 5 ninety degree turns which were a little tight. But Nick turned around in going passage after ~200 feet. Wow! We decided we didn't have time and would save this lead for WVACS Classic. We made our way slowly out with a stop at Musser's Mess. We were out by 4:40pm. We had surveyed a total of 643 feet on a fun 5-hour trip.

5/25: Mud Pot Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, and Keith Sweeney. See article on page 41.

5/25: Massie #1 Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Andrew Newton, Spencer Adams, Rick Lambert, Jacob Whitlock, and Billy Pickett. Outside was Bob Alderson, Keith Sweeney, Jim Schurman, and maybe a few others. We did whopping four stations and decided today was not the day to survey the cave. It was more vertical than expected, plus there were just too many cavers in the cave, making it difficult to do anything. The entrance is a 10-foot climb down which can be free climbed, but we used a cable ladder as a handline. At the bottom is a tight crack with a big rock in the way making entry annoying. It's a 2 foot squeeze which opens into a low long room with a number of holes in the floor, plus a canyon which drops to a lower level about 15 feet down. One of the cavers dropped his pack down the hole, but Andrew (or Spencer) free climbed down and retrieved the pack. He said it was pretty tricky getting back up. Rick Lambert, at a different location, said his drop was vertical and would need a rope. It was at this point that we decided to come back, rig the cave properly for safety, and then survey. It was 4pm already anyway. We were in the cave for maybe an hour and surveyed 24 feet.

5/26: Butler Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, Brian Mayfield, Kat Wood, and Hope McAdams. See trip report on page 42.

6/1: Boar Hole Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky and Greg Springer. We were supposed to go to Dry Cave, but we couldn't find a third, so Greg Springer and I

went to Boar Hole Cave to dig and survey. On our dig, we actually busted through into virgin cave, but it devolved back into a muddy dig which would have taken us too long to get through, so we switched over to surveying a nice canyon passage. We got 37 stations and 400 feet. It was a fun 10-hour trip.

6/7: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Nick Socky, and Paul Walko. We went in the Lightner entrance to check the lead for my survey the next day. The lead was downstream Freeman Ave to the turnoff for Second Breakdown. At the turn off is a small hole in the breakdown which leads to a big trunk passage. We made sure this was the right place. Nick rigged two bolts and a rope since the down lead was vertical. Nick went down to check it out and reported there was perhaps 600 feet of passage. My survey trip for Saturday was a go.

6/8: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Silas Springer, Vivian Belenky, and Elena Berman (team 1). Paul Walko, Peter Anastasiov, Jake Salzman, and Ryan Ketzner (team 2). This was a WVACS Classic survey trip to McClungs. We went into the Lightner entrance. Downstream Freeman Ave to the turnoff for Second Breakdown. At the turn off is a small hole in the breakdown which leads to a big trunk passage that no one really knew about. It is not obvious. It is vertical to get down, about 12 feet, but we had a rope which was installed the day before. I went in first with my team. The vertical hole through the breakdown was pretty tight, but not as bad as I had feared. Once down, we were in a 40-foot-wide trunk passage with a 20 foot ceiling. We went down the passage a bit and started surveying. Paul tied into a station at the turn off and eventually tied into the start of our survey. We worked for 2 hours, finishing most of it. We surveyed 491 feet on a 6.5-hour trip, but there is still more that needs to be done. We headed out around 3:30pm and made it back to WVACS in time for dinner.





- Vertical and horizontal trips will be available.
- Permits for Cyclops and Salamander will need to be pulled by individual parties wishing to visit those SCCI caves.
- Limited trips available to Perkins Cave Preserve will be a highlight of anyone's trip to Fall VAR.
- Newberry-Bane System trip. Visit the cave where Vertical Bill pioneered many of the techniques we use to explore today!
- Float trips on the Holston or Clinch Rivers are within an easy drive.
- Visit the Marion Farmers Market on Saturday morning for any locally grown items you may desire for your own meals.
- Biking on the historic Virginia Creeper Trail is just minutes away!
- Engine 343 Wood Fired Pizza Truck will be providing dinner on Saturday. They also have a vegetarian/vegan gluten free crust option that will be available.

OUT OF BOUNDS GROTTO

FALL VAR 2024

outofboundsgrotto.org

SEPTEMBER 27 - 29

Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat
Marion, VA

