

Carbide Dump

A close-up photograph of a large, textured, brownish-orange object, possibly a piece of coral or a biological specimen. The object has a rough, fibrous, and somewhat crystalline appearance. It is illuminated from the side, creating strong highlights and shadows that emphasize its texture. In the lower right corner, a bright, circular light source is visible, casting a glow on the surrounding area. The background is dark and out of focus.

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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 6:30 pm. See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue for current location.

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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, Mark Minton, Yvonne Droms, Kelly McCarthy, Nikki Fox, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Fuzzy formations in Lowmoor Cave., VA Photo by Dave Socky.

CAVERS CALENDAR

June 13-15: Young Timer's Reunion (YTR). at the RASS Fieldhouse, Millboro, VA. Organized by the VPI Cave Club. RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/SFiueiN56Jj8hvTJA>.

June 20: NO BRG meeting.

June 21: NO BRG cave trip.

June 23 - 28: NSS 2025 Convention, Cobleskill, NY. [See link](#)

July 11-13: WVACS Classic, at the WVACS field station. See page 37 for information.

July-11-19: NCRC Weeklong classes, Mountain Gateway Community College, Clifton Forge, VA. For more info, including prerequisites, visit: <https://caves.org/ncrc/courses/ncrc-course-descriptions/>

July 17-18: BRG meeting, 6:30pm at a location to be announced.

July 20 - 27: ICS 2025 in Brazil. See <https://speleo2025.org/>.

Aug 15: BRG meeting, 6:30pm at a location to be announced.

Aug 28-Sept 1: Old Timers Reunion, Dailey, WV. Must be a TRA member. <https://otr.org/about/membership/>

Sept 19: BRG meeting, 6:30pm at a location to be announced.

Oct 6-10: National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Ely NV. Hosted by Western Cave Conservancy. See: <https://ely2025.nckms.org/>

Oct 9-12: TAG Fall Cave-In 2025, Union Grove, Alabama.

Oct 17-19: GO Fest, (Go Outside Festival) Downtown Roanoke, VA. **SAVE THE DATE!** If CaveSim returns, volunteers will be needed.

Oct 18: BRG meeting, 6:30pm at a location to be announced. Nominations.

Nov 21: BRG meeting, 6:30pm at a location to be announced. Elections.



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/>

VAR Limited Access Cave List

<https://var.caves.org/index.php/conservation/closed-caves/closed-cave-list>

Treasurer's Report 06/12/2025

Cave Bucks	\$ 117.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$5,803.26
Total	\$6,067.34

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.



BRG meetings. BRG has closed another restaurant, this time **Logan's Roadhouse in Roanoke, VA.** So, we need to find another place to hold meetings. If anyone finds a suitable place, please let the officers know.

T-Shirts: There are 17 remaining T-shirts! \$12.00 each. Med. to XL, various colors: red, gold, grey, green, light blue, etc. Contact Susan Burr pondlad97@gmail.com for more information.

BRG Online Payments: BRG can now accept payments through ZELLE, a 'free' cash app. Use the following email through your banks' ZELLE app: blueridgegrottoofficers@gmail.com.

BRG will also continue to maintain the BRG PayPal account (which charges

fees). Anyone who pays BRG through the PayPal account will be charged a \$1.00 convenience fee for the transaction. Use blueridgegrottoofficers@gmail.com for PayPal.

The Bat Flat: Here's an innovative idea for installing bat houses on telephone poles that's being tested in Virginia. See [this link](#).

Santamander - Marian McConnell is collecting photos of orange cave salamanders to use to design a 2025 BRG Christmas card, "Santamander" ... since the Santa bats have been so popular. Please share your really good detailed salamander photos with her between now and October.

Rocks - the Warm Springs Valley project meets every Wednesday, and some Saturdays. Contact Dave Socky if you would like to participate at the following email: sockydr@cox.net.

VAR Limited Access Cave List can be found at this [link](#). Please send changes and updates to Brad Blase at blase@virginiacaves.org or Dave Socky at sockydr@cox.net.



BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

Because most of the BRG Officers will be out of town, **the June 20th Grotto meeting has been canceled.** Just as well, because we still haven't found a new home for meetings yet. Sigh.

Grotto Trip

It's summer time! Everyone is off doing other stuff, so there will be no June Grotto Cave Trip. See you all in July.

2025 WVACS Classic

Mark your calendars! The 2025 WVACS Classic will be July 11-13, 2025!!

The Classic is hosted at the WVACS field station, located between Frankford and Renick in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. ([click here for Google Map pin](#))

So what exactly is The Classic?

The event is hosted by the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies (WVACS) and offers cavers and spelunkers an introduction into project caving and the various skills used to push the boundaries of the known underground. The Classic also offers a place for people new to caving an experience of the underground for the first time.

A general schedule of events

Friday - arrive starting at 5pm, socialize, look at trip options for Saturday

Saturday - sign up for cave trips opens at 8am, GO CAVING, eat a delicious catered dinner from Mountain Table, listen to a talk on a cave related subject, play caver games, and hang out on the deck

Sunday - go caving again (if you want) and head home

Fee

Event + Dinner = \$35,

Just Event (no dinner) = \$15

RSVP: [RSVP here](#)

If you have RSVP'd and would like to pay online in advance you may do so here: <https://wvacs.org/payments/> this link can also be found at the end of the survey.

Feel free to reach out if you have questions. The deadline to sign up for dinner is July 2nd. Hope to see you underground in West Virginia!

Kelly McCarthy (kellyrachelmcc@gmail.com)



Dye Traps and Finding a Exploring a New Cave

Article and Photos by *Dave Socky*

On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, David Socky, Rick Lambert, and Amos Mincin met at Keith Sweeney's house in the Falling Spring Cove, Warm Springs Valley, Alleghany County, Virginia. Their mission was to replace data loggers in various locations, set dye traps, and work on the new cave, **TD005** that was found a week ago. Keith Sweeney helped assemble gear but was not able to help this day.



Pooled water in Rushing Waters Cave

The group split into two teams. Rick Lambert (reporting separately) was to replace data loggers at various locations, while Amos Mincin and Dave Socky were to set dye traps in **Rushing Waters** and **Mud Pot**. This report is about the activities of Dave and Amos, plus the work on the new cave, TD005.

First stop was to check the water at **Triplet Cave**, since this is where the dye would be injected. There was a small trickle of water entering the North Twin entrance, but it was only pooled in the South Twin Entrance. There was no water flowing into Triplet. The weather report was for 2+ inches of rain over the weekend, so on the coming Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, if there is water running into Triplet, dye would be injected.

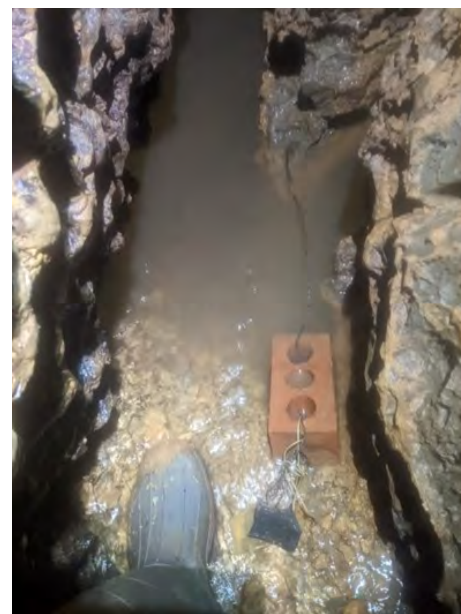
The second stop was **Rushing Waters Cave**. The cable ladder was rigged and Dave descended through the tight entrance. But within 20 feet at the top of the steep mud slope, pooled water was encountered. Dave attached the charcoal

dye trap to a brick with coated wire, took a photo, and threw the brick as far as he could into the water. The brick probably did not make it to the bottom and is most likely sitting someplace on the mud slope. After exiting, it was noted that water was coming out of the breakdown below the entrance and flowing through the culvert. The plan is for Keith Sweeney to place a dye trap outside the cave in the outflowing water before the storm comes through this coming week-end.

The third stop was **Mud Pot Cave**. Dave pulled the data logger up from the entrance and put a new logger on the wire. Rick Lambert showed up just as the drop was being rigged. Dave rappelled in with no issues. There was a thermocline about 20-feet down. The air temperature increased as Dave descended. It was estimated to be about 80F to 85F degrees with 100% humidity at the bottom. In the downstream section of the stream

(closest to the rope), Dave found the brick still attached to the wall by a thin wire. Using a new section of coated wire, the dye trap was attached to the brick and the brick put back in the water. The water temperature was warm and flowing vigorously. The climb back out was uneventful.

The last stop was up the road past the Jenga dig to TD005. Rick cleared a path through the brambles using an electric hedge trimmer. The cave was found without issue. The entrance was in the headwall of a sink-hole in the woods. It was a body-sized crack going down to a ledge about 6 feet down. A smaller hole going straight down could be seen,



Dye Trap in Mud Pot

and rocks tossed in bounced down a long way for an estimated 30 to 40 feet. The holes going down were tight, but it seemed that Amos would be able to fit without any digging.

However, Amos is Amos, so he took his four-pound sledge and proceeded to make the entrance larger. Dave and Rick went back to the vehicles to get helmets and technical digging gear. When they got back, Amos was able to climb down the six feet to a natural bridge over the next pit. Amos attacked the rock around

(Continued on page 39)



Rick Lambert at entrance to Dogwood Cave

(New Cave continued from page 38)

the next pit to make it large enough for the rest of the crew to enter. By this time, it was obvious that the next pit could not be free climbed and that vertical gear would be required. So, Rick and Dave went back to the cars again to get vertical gear, bolting stuff, and a rope. When they got back, Amos pronounced that the pit was now large enough for Dave to fit.

Dave placed two bolts in the ceiling of the entrance above the pit, plus a backup bolt in the headwall. Rick tied the end of the rope to a tree. The rope was 140 feet long, which was hopefully long enough to reach the bottom.

Dave rappelled in and was able to squeeze through the small pit entrance with room to spare. It opened up after only 2 feet. As it turned out, the bottom was only about 12 feet down. The cave had opened up into a long narrow canyon going off into the hillside. After only a few feet, the floor of the canyon sloped down at a 30-degree angle with a floor of loose dirt. After some rope management, Dave rappelled down the slope. He could see another drop off about 20 feet ahead. Sure enough, there was another drop which looked like it was about 15 to 20 feet deep. The edge of the drop had a rock projection with V

shaped edges on both the left and right sides. The edge was undercut so rappelling over the edge would be really tricky. The climb back up would be even worse, plus the rope would naturally slide into the V slot making it very difficult to get over the lip. In order to do this drop properly, a bolt or two would be required in the left wall, past the lip.

Looking across the drop down the canyon, the floor rose up and it looked like the canyon ended, although there could be a high lead near the top. However, at the bottom of the drop, the floor sloped downward, going underneath the entry slope. It was not possible to see if the cave continued going downslope. Because of the passage size and the temperatures outside, it was not possible to tell if there was any air movement. At the bottom of the drop, the canyon was about 7 to 8 feet wide and about 40 feet high. The floor was dirt & small gravel.

By this time, it was getting late in the afternoon. There was not enough time to do the rigging, plus there was enough cave that a survey would need to be done. It was decided to leave the rigging and survey until next week. Plus, a straw or two at the natural bridge would make the make the entry pit a little more comfortable.



Down the steep slope from the bottom of the 12 foot pit

Before leaving for the day, Rick identified one of the trees at the entrance – it was a Dogwood. So, it was decided to name the cave ‘*Dogwood Cave*’ for the time being. Plans were made for returning next week.

Exploration & Survey of Dogwood Cave

By *Dave Socky*

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, David Socky, Mark Minton, Yvonne Droms, Rick Lambert, Amos Mincin, Jim Schurman, and Keith Sweeney met at Keith's house at 10 am in the Falling Spring Cove, Warm Springs Valley, Alleghany County, Virginia. Their mission was to explore and survey **Dogwood Cave**, the new find from last week. The plan was for Mark, Yvonne, and Dave to rappel in and push the unexplored 20-foot drop at the end of the steep slope. If it went, then others would come in as necessary. If it didn't go, then they would survey out of the cave.

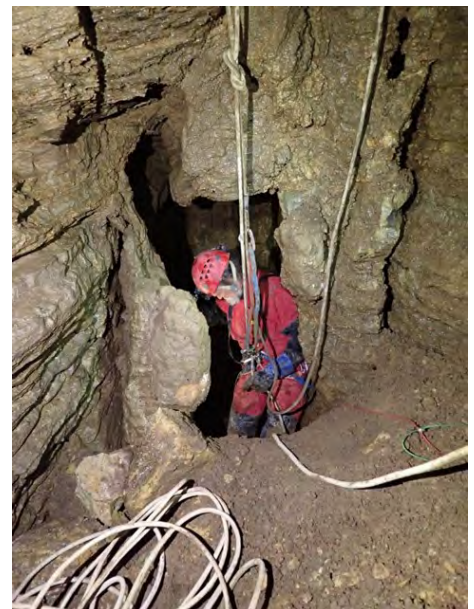
Because of the rain, a light drizzle, everyone got dressed (including vertical gear) and ready to go in Keith's basement or under the protection of the shelter next to the garage. Rick went ahead to drill and remove an obstructing rock 6 feet down from the entrance, which would make the entrance pit less restrictive.

Once everyone arrived around 11am, they found that the straw Rick had set didn't go off, or it had blown out the back. Mark rigged the rope and dropped down to the obstructing rock. Mark pounded and beat on the rock with a four-pound sledge and finally was able to break it apart, opening up the constriction. The drop was now quite open and easy to go down.

Mark rappelled the 20-foot entrance pit, followed by Dave and Yvonne. Mark put in a bolt at the top of the slope to use as a redirect and then rappelled down to the edge of the next drop. The steep slope was 25 feet long and at a slope of 45 degrees. Mark put a bolt in the right-hand wall, a few feet past the edge of the drop off and rappelled down. The drop was 22 feet.

It didn't take Mark long to report the bad news. It looked like there was no way to

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Mark at top of steep slope (Yvonne Droms)

(Dogwood Cave continued from page 39)

continue on at the bottom. There was a drain which maybe could be dug out, plus a potential high lead at the north-west end of the canyon. Bummer.

Yvonne and Dave rappelled down to start the survey. But first, Dave spotted Mark while he climbed up the northwest end of the canyon to check for a potential high lead where the canyon bent around to the left. It didn't go – it was mud filled. There was an old cave rat nest – nuts and debris – about 6 feet up from where Mark climbed.

Yvonne and Dave surveyed while Mark dug at the drain near the end of the southeast end of the canyon. Mark finally gave up, calling the dig pretty hopeless. The survey out took 10 stations. Mark derigged as they exited the cave. Everyone was out by 3pm.

Dogwood Cave was surveyed to a length of 136 feet and is 80 feet deep. The entrance is at the base of a short headwall at edge of a shallow sink in the woods. The entrance of the cave is in the Eggleston Limestone. The entrance drops down 20 feet to the top of a narrow canyon. A steep 45-degree slope leads to the second 20-foot drop to the bottom of the canyon. At the bottom, the canyon is about 8 to 10 feet wide and narrows as it goes up. The canyon itself is about 60 feet high and runs along a line northwest / southeast and is 50 feet long. The entrance is at the southeast end of the canyon. Two layers of shale were noted in the canyon. From the bottom, the first layer is about 13 feet up from A1 (the bottom of the canyon) and is about 3 feet thick. The second layer is about 27 feet above A1 and is about 5 feet thick. The only lead is a miserable

dig in a small drain near the southeast end of the canyon (A5). This is the lowest point in the cave – 80 feet below the entrance.

Since there was still time left in the afternoon, the group headed to the north-northwest where there were some holes to be investigated. Amos dug at one for a little, but with no air, the group gave up on that one. They moved down the gentle hill to a very shallow sink which had numerous holes around pieces of rock sticking out of the grass. Six straws were employed and much rock removed. But by 5 pm, more blasting would be needed to even see if there was something to get into. It was decided to call it a day. At least the rain had stopped. 🐾



Dave Socky rappelling the last drop (Yvonne Droms)



Dave spotting Mark to check high lead (Yvonne Droms)

The Caverns at Natural Bridge Update

(from orig. Ch 7 news article by [Tynisha Jackson](#) Published: Jun. 4, 2025)

After 50 years of operation, the **Caverns at Natural Bridge, VA**, closed October 18, 2024.

It was purchased by nearby [Natural Bridge State Park](#), from the [Conservation Legacy Fund](#).

This is a Win! Win! situation. The State Park has acquired a nearby show cave – that cave now has a good steward who will restore the underground environment.

Natural Bridge State Park Manager Jim Jones said “... it <the cave> fits so nice with our mission and with VCR’s mission of conservation and recreation and what we do protecting some of the most natural resources in Virginia.”

The Caverns at Natural Bridge (originally known as Buck Hill Cave,

VA) has earned a well-deserved rest during renovations. Cave ecology experts and engineers are ensuring the preservation of the cavern’s unique ecosystem and cave life.

“...The cave needs to heal; it’s a good time for it to be asleep and let nature take its course and redo what’s been undone,” said Jones.

No reopening date yet, but the park rangers have exciting plans for the cave and its guests once renovations are complete. Educational karst workshops and lantern tours are possibilities. Click here for [a short video from WDBJ7](#):

While the re-opening date has yet to be determined, the park rangers have plans to enhance guest experiences once renovations are finished.



Safety & Techniques

Nick Schmalenberger emphasized the importance of being “in shape” for cave trips; monitor your energy levels to make sure you have enough strength to complete the cave trip and back out. (Cave divers have a 1/3 rule; you turn around and head for the entrance when you have 2/3 air in your tanks; likewise, dry land cavers should always have enough energy to safely exit the cave. DRS) A cave trip is no place to start a new diet! Exercise, cross-training above ground and being healthy will help cavers better themselves underground.



BRG Needs Another New Home!

BRG Meeting space in 2025. We have closed down TWO restaurants in the past 7 months! [We need a new meeting place](#).

At the May BRG meeting, Susan Burr volunteered to look at Frank’s on Brambleton Ave. & Bellacino’s near Tanglewood Mall to see if they are available on Friday nights.

In the meantime, the Socky’s can continue to host the BRG meetings at their home.

The next BRG meeting will be Friday, July 18, 2025.



Formations in Short's Moonshine Cave, KY
Photo by Dave Socky

Magnetic Declination

By *Mark Minton*

Everyone who surveys caves should correct their compass readings for magnetic declination, especially when data for large systems is collected over many years, or even decades. Declination in some areas changes significantly from year to year.

NOAA has recently released new magnetic declination maps. See <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/world-magnetic-model>

Their declination calculator for a given location and date is here : <https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/calculators/magcalc.shtml>.

Petzl Tariff Increases

Sent in by *Mark Minton*

See the link below about upcoming tariff-induced price increases at Petzl. If you have any large purchases planned, you might want to think about ordering early. Increases go into effect on July 1.

[Link to notice from Petzl](#)

Another Bat Fungal Disease?

Sent in by *Mark Minton*

An article from the New York Times can be [found here](#).

An article from the Smithsonian can be [found here](#).

VAR

Host grottos are needed for 2025 Fall VAR and 2026 Spring VAR. Small grottos or groups have worked together to host VARs. A site is needed for camping, porta johns, (running water and showers is a plus!) Saturday evening dinner, and a meeting place for the Sunday morning meeting.

Contact VAR Chair Meredith Weberg merecaver@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping host a VAR.

Dixie Caverns @ Virginia Cave Week

By Mary Sue Socky

Wow, what a perfect day!

Blue Ridge Grotto celebrated Virginia Cave Week on June 1, 2025, at Dixie Caverns, VA.

Blue Ridge Grotto cavers had been cleaning and restoring areas of Dixie Caverns since February 2025. Lots of the cave is sparkling and green-free. The Wedding Bell and Magic Mirror look great! More always needs to be done...

The Dixie Caverns outside stairs had been cleaned, with a Karst Trail Sign



Marian and Mary Sue with new display. Photo by Susan Burr



Dave Socky doing 10" with Nick Schmalenberger looking on. Photo by Marian McConnell

installed at the Cavern entrance. The Entrance Room display case has been updated. Educational karst posters have been added to the walls.

Anyway, Marian McConnell, Lily, Dave Socky, Mary Sue Socky, Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Nick Schmalenberger, and Jenna Fidler gathered near the mailboxes and set up the educational kiosk, the tables, display boards, etc. and spent several hours conversing with cave visitors. Everyone liked caves and had a great tour of Dixie Caverns.

Nearby in the grass, Nick Schmalenberger set up the Squeezebox.

Immediately cavers began demonstrating their prowess and slithering techniques, and the lid began to drop lower.



VA Cave & Karst Trail Sign at Dixie Caverns entrance. Photo by Mary Sue Socky



Jeff Huffman, Mary Sue and Dave Socky, and Susan Burr at the BRG Kiosk. Photo by Marian McConnell



Jenna in the squeeze box with Susan looking on. Photo by Marian McConnell

Jenna and the tour guides seemed perplexed; a few guides tried sliding through. Jenna sported a nice bruise from her encounters with the box – friction is not your friend in this beast.

I don't know if we coaxed any adult tourists into trying the Squeezebox – but several youngsters enjoyed it!

2 pm came all too soon. We packed up and headed home. Thank you, everyone for coming out and having fun.



Grotto Trip Log

5/7: Marian McConnell, Susan Burr, and Mary Sue Socky worked at **Dixie Caverns, VA**, cleaning various areas of the cave and updating the display case in the entrance room.

5/8: Shoveleater Cave, WV. Bob Alderson, Mark Minton & Yvonne Droms. They returned to a now-dry dome. Mark did a 40' climb to a balcony, with Vonnie on belay.

5/10: (VAR) Nick Schmalenberger, Meredith Weberg, and 15 other cavers visited **Commander Adamas' Killer Bat Cave, WV.** (total of 17 when two groups combined). This many people invoked the dread slinky effect and people slowly entered and exited the cave in clumps. Nick was a human step stool for about 2 hours.

5/10: (VAR) Bambi Marshall and a bunch of cavers visited the **Sinks of Gandy, WV.** Thru trips are no longer allowed.

5/10: (VAR) Bob Balch visited **North Trout Cave, WV.** John Levin led 12 cavers on a 3 ½ hour trip where they explored some of the maze and leads into another big room. They saw one bat.

5/14 Root Cellar Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, Mark Minton, Yvonne Droms. Surface support-Rick Lambert, Bill Koerschner, Keith Sweeney, and Jim Schurman. We returned to the 100+ foot pits! Bob rigged the back pit while Mark rigged the 30' plus 100' pits. Yvonne and I surveyed. Bob struggled with his ?? because it was pretty tight and awkward at the top, but once on rope, it opened up into a really nice rappel. Mark knocked a huge rock down which made lots of noise. Bob got to see it falling past while he was going down his rope. But, alas, it was a dead bottom pit. No leads. The only possibility is a side parallel pit about 20 feet down from the bottom of the 30' pit. The side pit has a tight entrance which will need to be technically dug. Class C dig. We removed the ropes but left the hangers in the main drop. Oh well.

5/15: Nick Schmalenberger attended a **Greenbrier Grotto** meeting. It was reported that the WV DCR is replacing a wall with a bat gate in ??? cave.

5/21: Rushing Waters Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky and Amos Mincin. While Rick Lambert was changing out data loggers in various locations, I went into Rushing Waters to set a dye trap. You couldn't tell how high the water was until you got down to the first flat spot 12 feet down. But once under the ceiling

height change, you could see the water was only 5 feet from my feet. I tied the dye trap to a brick with the coated wire and then tossed it in as far as I could. I know it didn't go to the bottom. Mud Pot next.

5/21: Mud Pot Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Amos Mincin, and Rick Lambert. It took a little wandering, but I found Mud Pot. By the time I started rigging, Rick Lambert showed up. Once the pit was rigged, I clipped in, rigged my rack and went in. There was a thermocline about 20 feet down and then got warmer and warmer going down. No problem finding the brick in the downstream (close) pool. I set the dye trap, took some photos, and then climbed back up the narrow canyon slope to the rope. No problem getting up, but boy, I was sweating. We derigged and headed over to the dig that we had found last week - Dogwood Cave.

5/21: Dogwood Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Amos Mincin, and Rick Lambert. It goes! Need more rope and a rebelay. See Article this issue.

5/24: Short's Moonshine Cave, KY. Participants included David Socky, Laine Flom (Roberts?), Bob Alderson. Team two: Bill Koerschner, Michelle Touma, and Cory Knight. This was part of the Cave Research Foundation (CRF) Mammoth Cave Expedition. Short's Moonshine is a cave not in the Mammoth Cave Park that Bob and Bill worked in on the last expedition. There was a 600-foot-long water crawl that ended in a 55-foot pit. We split into two teams: Bob, Laine, and I would go to the 55-foot pit while Bill, Michelle, and Cory would survey the stream crawl. Our team surveyed 328 feet of small passages above the pit while Bill's team nearly got hypothermic surveying 300 feet in the very wet stream crawl. It was a productive 8-hour trip.

5/25: Short's Moonshine Cave, KY. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, and Bill Koerschner. We started surveying in the big entrance room, making one shot where the previous survey hadn't gotten a backsight. The ledge on the left started out pretty easy, but the last part was somewhat sketchy with the ledge steeply sloping off to 15 feet of exposure. A little tricky, but doable. We surveyed straight ahead for maybe 20 or 30 feet until the main way got too narrow, but we were able to drop down through a tight floor canyon into a wide room below. The floor of this room was perched above the main lower level with no way to climb down. Looking back toward the entrance, there were some really nice rimstone pools on the left, with a trickle of water flowing out of a crack. Back up above the slot, we surveyed

down the side lead on the right where there was a small trickle stream flowing out. The passage was a small awkward hand and knees crawl which got smaller and smaller as we continued. There were a couple of constrictions until Bob finally got to a point where he couldn't continue. Just too tight. That was it for our short survey in Short's Moonshine Cave.

5/28: Dogwood Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Mark Minton, and Yvonne Droms. Surface: Rick Lambert, Amos Mincin, Jim Schurman, and Keith Sweeney. We finished the exploration and survey of Dogwood Cave on this trip. Unfortunately, a dead bottom pit. See article in this issue.

6/4: Burruss Cave #2, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, Bill Koerschner, Rich Lambert, Keith Sweeney, Mark Minton, Vonny Droms, and Jim Schurman. All these cavers for two cavers in the pit at one time. It was a nice, pleasant day, maybe a little hot, but it was cool to cold in the pit. Lots of bugs and gnats on the surface. Lots of mud, rock, sticks, and debris in the pit. Mark and Bob went in first and did the majority of the digging throughout the day. The pit was about 20 to 25 feet deep to the top of the mud/debris pile. We had a two-to-one pulley system to pull buckets up. Around 2pm, Mark and Bob came up and I went to get my gear. But first Bob went in with the straw kit and drilled 3 holes for an obstructing ledge. With a loud boom, the straws took care of the obstruction. I went down and found the climb down on the left side of the pile was more than big enough. I spent maybe an hour digging and filling buckets. There is still a lot of stuff to pull up, but there is a space which may open up on the right wall. At a few minutes to five, it was declared we had had enough. We pulled the tools up and then Bob and I climbed out. It was a fun day.



Short's Moonshine Entrance, KY
Photo by Dave Socky