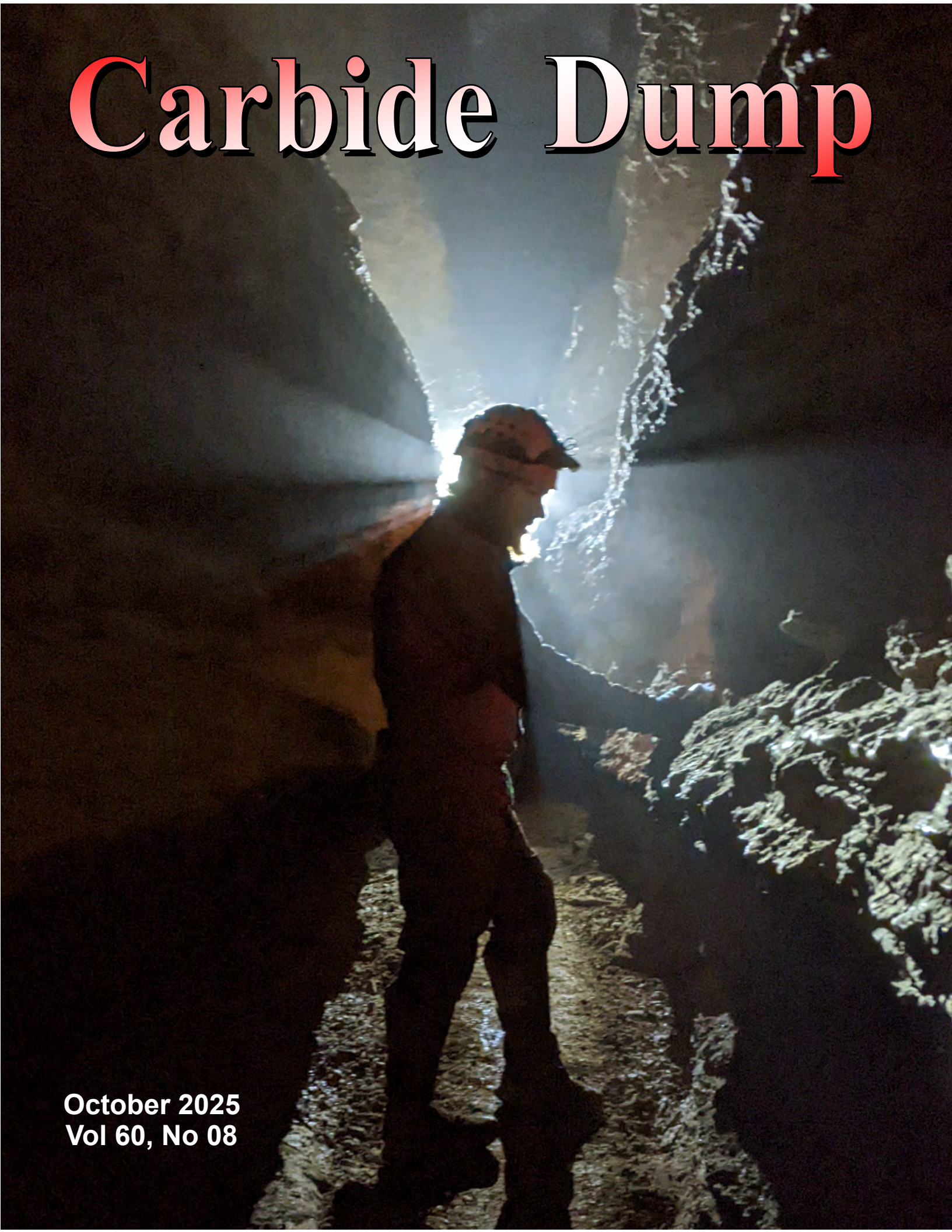


Carbide Dump

A person wearing a hard hat and safety gear is walking through a dark, rocky tunnel. The person is silhouetted against a bright light source in the distance, which creates a strong glow and illuminates the rough, uneven walls of the tunnel. The person is walking towards the right side of the frame.

October 2025
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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 the 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, Meredith Weberg, Susan Burr, Marian McConnell, Nick Schmalenberger, Earl Sutor, Nikki Fox, Carol Tideman, Mark Minton, Jeff Huffman, Bob Alderson, Brian Williams and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Eric Shuler backlit in Pats Section of **Butler Cave**, VA. Photo by Dave Socky

CAVERS CALENDAR

Oct 17: BRG meeting, 6:00pm for dinner, meeting at 6:30pm at **Famous Anthony's-Brookside**, on Williamson Rd, NW Roanoke VA 24019. **Nominations.**

Oct 18-19: **GO Fest**, (Go Outside Festival) Downtown Roanoke, VA. **CaveSim** will be there. Volunteers will be needed.

Oct 17-19: **VAR**. At the RASS Field Station. Hosted by the VAR Officers. Registration info on page 68.

Oct 18: **Bridge Day**, Fayetteville WV. See <https://officialbridgeday.com/bridge-day-info> for more info.

Nov 8: **WVCC Banquet**, at the Clingman Center in downtown Lewisburg, WV. See <http://wvcc.net> for more info.

Nov 21: BRG meeting, 6:00pm for dinner, meeting at 6:30pm at **Famous Anthony's-Brookside**, on Williamson Rd, NW Roanoke VA 24019. **Elections.**

Dec 13: **Annual WVACS Christmas Party**, WVACS Fieldstation. Contact Nick Socky at 540-529-0413 or sockynss@vt.edu for more info.

Dec 19: NO DECEMBER BRG MEETING. See you next year!

Jan 1, 2026: Happy New Year!

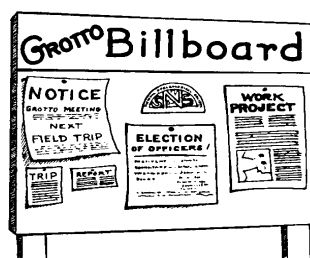
Jan 16: BRG meeting, 6:30pm, TBD

Jan 18: BRG Winter Party, Noon - 5 pm, Pot Luck, BYOB, Dave & Mary Socky's house, 6572 Woodbrook Dr. SW Roanoke, VA 24018.

Feb 20: BRG meeting, 6:30pm, TBD

July 6-10, 2026: 2026 NSS Convention, Corydon, IN (<https://caves.org/convention/2026-nss-convention/>)

June 14 to 18, 2027: 2027 NSS Convention. Del Rio, Texas



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 10/10/2025

Cave Bucks	\$ 117.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$5,674.18
Total	\$5,938.26

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.



S&T: Nick Schmalenberger participated in the July 2025 NCRC Weeklong Team Exercises. These Virginia caves were visited during the Weeklong: Lowmoor, Island Ford, Crossroads, Paxton, Eagle Rock Quarry. In 2026 there will be a new NCRC curriculum; course will be held in Mentone, AL.

Mexican Cave Stalagmites Reveal the Deadly Droughts Behind the Maya Collapse

From Science Daily

Aug. 16, 2025 — Chemical evidence from a stalagmite in Mexico has revealed that the Classic Maya civilization’s decline coincided with repeated severe wet-season droughts, including one that lasted 13 years. These ... [See this link for the full article](#)

Host for 2026 Spring VAR

Hi VAR Cavers - I'd really love it if by the Fall VAR meeting (10/19) we had a host grotto lined up to host next spring. Please be thinking about it and talking it over within your grotto.

I am glad to help answer your questions, though most are probably answered in the *How to Host a VAR* section on the website. [How to Host a VAR](#)

Please contact me, Meredith Weberg at mercacaver@gmail.com 703-203-6975

Also, please register now! The deadline for dinner is October 8, 2025, so do it while you're thinking about it.

BRG Winter Party: BRG Christmas/Solstice/Holiday/New Year/Winter Party will be held **Sunday, Jan 18, 2026** at the Socky's house. Potluck, BYOB, Noon to 5 pm. BRG Will hold **Jan 16, 2026** meeting in addition to the party.

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 pondlady97@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.

BRGs Newest Home 10/2025

Don't forget that BRG has found a NEW meeting place at Famous Anthony's, near the Brookside Golf Course in Roanoke, VA!

Famous Anthony's - Brookside
6499 Williamson Rd NW
Roanoke, VA 24019

Marian McConnell stopped by in person and reserved the **Front meeting room** for our Oct 17 and Nov 21 meetings from 6-9p. The Front meeting room is bigger and has a larger TV. If all goes well with this arrangement, we can schedule for Jan-Nov 2026 in December.

Click [here for a Google Map location for Famous Anthony's](#).

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.

NSS Award Nominations: It's time to submit **nominations for NSS Awards**. Nominations are due by **NOVEMBER 15th**. <https://caves.org/nss-awards/>

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

Winter Bat Closure for some caves. These closures are primarily for hibernacula.

- ♦ WV: closed Sept 1 - May 15
- ♦ VA: closed Oct. 15 - Apr. 15



BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

The October 17, 2025 meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held at **Famous Anthony's - Brookside** (6499 Williamson Rd). Come around 6 pm to order dinner with the meeting starting at **6:30pm**. Click [here for the location of Famous Anthony's](#).

The program will be a 15 minute video called *“Cenotes of Mayakoba”*. It won an Merit Award for the 2025 NSS Video Salon. It is about some really beautiful cave diving in Mexico.

Grotto Trips

GoFest & CaveSim

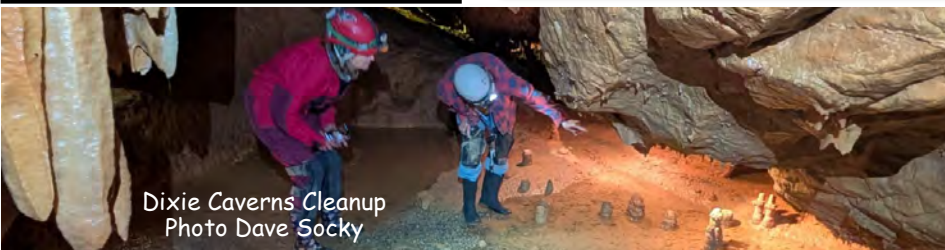
Date & Time: Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19, 2025. Downtown Roanoke. See article on page 67.

Leaders: Mary Sue and Dave Socky.

Coordination: Mary Sue Socky
540-529-3954 sockymss@cox.net

Requirements: none

Limit: No limit



Dixie Caverns Cleanup
Photo Dave Socky

Resurvey of Dunn's Cave, VA

Article by *Dave Socky*

Survey participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaite, Bill Koerschner, and Bob Alderson.

We met at Keith Sweeney's house at 10:15am, but the data logging crew had taken off already. We found the waivers for Dunn's Cave, which we filled out and took with us. We then headed over to Dunn's Cave where we met up with Bill Jones. We turned over our liability waivers and Bill took us into the old Dunn's farmhouse where we had a look at the very old map that the owner had found. The map was probably done in the late 1800s and was scaled in paces. It was a real piece of history.

This was a special trip for me since it would be my first real caving after three months of recovering from broken ribs

block breakdown on the left with many little openings and crawls that went into the further reaches of the entrance room to the north-east. At A6 was a stoop way on the right which doubled back and went down a mud slope parallel to the main passage. There was a window into the main passage about 20 feet down. The parallel passage ended at A8.

We did one shot from A6 to A9 that led into the main upper-level south-east branch. But our goal was

not to do that section of the cave. The plan was to cut back around to the hidden section of the entrance room, where the route to the lower-level stream passage was located and the lead to the other south-east branch took off from. This section of the cave was a jumbled mess of breakdown and convoluted interconnected tubes and canyons. Not the simplest thing to sketch. We surveyed around the right-hand portion of the room and eventually climbed up to a high point at the northern end of this section where there was a mud tube up a short 6-foot climb up. I did this little climb very

carefully, mindful of my ribs. The tube was only 11 feet long and ended at a 10-foot climb down into the main northern end of the entrance room. I declined to do the tricky downclimb.

We surveyed around the down climb to the stream passage and even-



Dave in the mud tube. Photo by Bob Alderson

tually tied back into station A4. We again noted that what at first seemed to be a wall separating the sections of the entrance room was nothing but just a bunch of large breakdown blocks with multiple ways from one section to the other. This is where cross sections and profiles on the map are really important to show the true nature of this section of the cave. Also, Bill Koerschner took a strike and dip reading around A5.

We then did the little loop that exited at the small left-hand lead at the entrance. All in all, we had surveyed 23 stations for a total of 373 feet. We finished up about 4:30 pm, exiting to a very nice day with a pretty blue sky. We figured it would take maybe 3 or 4 more trips to finish the cave.



Dave and Bill sketching at the entrance. Photo by Bob Alderson

and other injuries. I was really tired of doing nothing but bucket counting and rope tending on digs. Time to do some real caving!

We started our survey at the entrance at D1. The stooping entrance dropped down into the entrance room with a large side passage to the right and a tight little lead to the left. We surveyed into the passage to the right with one shot – it was 31 feet long and ended in some very nice old and dry formations. Calcite and flowstone all over. There was a side passage to the right which was small enough that I just sketched it.

Back in the main room, we continued down the main passage to the southeast. A solid wall to the right, and a huge drop



Joe amongst the formations. Photo by Dave Socky

Breathing Cave, VA

Article by *Susan Burr*

Date: 9/6/25

Participants: Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Lauren Appel, Brian Williams, Nick Schmalenberger, Jess Hester, Ben Hester, Isaiah Hall

We wanted to get into Breathing Cave before it closed down for the winter so we did a pick up on Saturday, 9/6/25. I normally am very good about estimating how long a trip will take, but I underestimated basically everything on this trip. It took about 2 hours or more to get there and about a 45 minute hike to the cave entrance. Our usual time in a cave is 3-5 hours. I had estimated about 4 hours for this one, but we ended up being in the cave for a little over 5 hours.

Our objective for this trip was to get to the waterfall at the end of Serpentine Way. That is my favorite passage and Jeff agreed to lead us there. This would be our first trip here without Doug Feller leading. We had maps with the route highlighted in yellow. Jeff is very good at navigating, but this cave is a little mazy. Between Jeff, Ben, Brian & Nick they figured it out. Did we make mistakes? Absolutely! My favorite one was when we went in a big circle & then had to figure out where we went wrong.

Everyone love going through the "Nutcracker" formation...NOT!!!! Yes, there are several challenges in this cave,

but we got through. This cave also has a lot of pretty formations as well. Unfortunately this day the water levels were very low so Serpentine Way was not as pretty/fun. On the way out we decided to check out the "Laundry Chute" passage. I couldn't remember what it was or where it went, but up the steep muddy slope we all went. Basically it is just a challenge to see if you can make it. Brian was super happy we decided to do that. LOL!

At the beginning of the trip Jeff had mentioned wondering what was in the Historic Section of the cave. I didn't know but I really wanted to go through the Serpentine Way so that is where we headed. As we were heading out everyone was pretty tired & getting sore. Once we were near the entrance I gathered the group up & asked if they would be okay with going to check out the Historic Section for just a little bit. I promised we

wouldn't do anything difficult & wouldn't be in there very long. Everyone agreed & off we went. I think we reached a main passage in the Historic Section, but decided we had been there long enough & would save the rest for a return visit another time.

On the hike back to the cars, Lauren & I started rolling over dead logs looking for salamanders. We were successful. Almost everyone got into the mode of looking. We found a couple of Southern Two-lined & several Red-backed salamanders.

It was a long but fun day! 🐸



Doing a climb in Breathing.
Photo by Jeff Huffman



Entrance to Breathing Cave.
Photo by Brian Williams

James Cave, VA

Article by *Susan Burr*

10/4/2025. **Participants:** Jeff Huffman, Susan Burr, Bambi Marshall, Jessica Hester, and Ben Hester

This was another exhausting 5 hour cave trip for us, but we were rewarded with all the pretties the cave has to offer. I did tell Jess, Ben & Bambi, who had never been before, that there was lots of crawling and stoop walking. I also mentioned the pretty rimpool section. Ended up we never found the rimpools, so everyone had me convinced I was crazy! Well I may be crazy, but I later proved to them that the rimpools existed by sending a link to an old James Cave album that had several pics of them. Guess we will need to try to find them next time!

We did the normal tourist route for the

most part. We did see a big salamander that was purple with tiny white spots just above the pipe you crawl through near the entrance. We saw a second smaller one further in the cave. No bats were seen.

We did the first major climb down without any webbing. We rigged the second climb down with an etrier. Everyone was helpful in spotting and assisting as needed. The next big climb down was to get into the stream passage where we first headed upstream to see the waterfalls.

It is amazing how well decorated the cave is. So many walls & ceilings are covered with beautiful formations. Jeff was very helpful in lighting up the pretty

(Continued on page 66)



The crew in James Cave.
Photo by Jeff Huffman

(James Cave continued from page 65)

sections so everyone could get some nice pictures.

We went back about as far as you could go or as far as we decided we wanted to go. This cave is a bit of an workout. We headed back to the entrance area and decided to go out the other entrance which goes under the road since several people hadn't done that before.

As we headed to the other entrance we noticed a lot of glass and trash in the cave. Several of us brought out what little bit we could. On the way back to the vehicles Jeff found a plastic grocery bag on the side of the road and we used that as a trash bag and proceeded to collect a little more trash along the road.

We feel like we should consider doing another conservation trip into this entrance to clean it out. Jeff said we would need a sled to safely get all the glass pieces out. Hopefully we can arrange to do this next year sometime.



Jessica among formations.
Photo by Susan Burr

NCRC Notifications

Eastern Region - National Cave Rescue Commission

Dear emergent ER-NCRC volunteers: After over 10 years of using TexCom to alert Emergent Volunteers of a cave rescue TexCom will be going down permanently on November 1st. Expect to get an email alert from another platform (most likely Google). No action need be taken on your part unless you wish to be removed from the list, or any changes to your contact information then email me at:

wvcaver216@gmail.com

Thank you, Earl Suito

Grotto Trip Log

8/30: Nick Schmalenberger and Martin DiLeggi visited **Greyledge Cave, VA**. James River Grotto (JRG) had recently visited the cave.

9/3: Helene and Barry Ferguson visited **Crozet Tunnel, VA**. They did a thru trip, and back!

9/6: Nick Schmalenberger and Susan Burr reported on a cave trip to **Breathing Cave, VA**. (They visited on the last OPEN weekend before the cave is closed for winter: deer hunting season and bat hibernation.) This was the first time BRG folks navigated Breathing without Doug Feller pointing out the way. Objective was to the (not running) waterfall. They got lost on the way back & ended up doing a circle back to the scary slippery part. 5-hour trip. Next time we will go to the Historic Section of Breathing Cave.

9/9: Trish Geiger traveled to Colorado, where she visited Garden of the Gods, **Cave Of The Winds**, Manitou Springs, CO, Pagosa Springs, CO, and Mesa Verde National Park. Excellent Mesa Verde tour! The park interpreters were outstanding!

9/10: Various Caves WSP, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaite, Keith Sweeney, Rick Lambert, Brian Keener, and Douglas Kemmer. We changed temperature loggers in: Dogwood Cave, Dressler Cave, Massie #1, Massie #2, Perry Campbell Cave, Rodent Hotel, and Collins Cave. We then went over to Triplet cave where Joe and Douglas went in through the pinch. Douglas said that he made it to the current next dig. We didn't do any digging or survey in Triplet. We were on the road by 3:30pm.

9/15: Dixie Caverns, VA. Participants included David Socky and Mary Sue Socky. Cleaning out the pool at the end of the cave. Used a hose to siphon to the dig/crawl. Siphon worked pretty good. Mary Sue was in from 11am until 3:30pm. Dave helped Jenna on the hilltop to see where the cave was.

9/17: Dixie Caverns, VA. Participants included David Socky, Mary Sue Socky, and Marian McConnell. Finished draining the pool and cleaned flowstone and formations. Hauled everything out. The cleanup was a success.

10/1: Dunn's Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaite, Bob Alderson, and Bill Koerschner. First survey for the re-survey of Dunn's Cave. We finished off the entrance room which included the breakdown mess. I sketched while Bill did cross sections and profiles and Joe was point and back sights while Bob was front sights. I did fine for my first cave trip in 3 months. I was still extra cautious and even accepted a spot and knee from Bob when climbing down from the mud tube. My ribs felt fine the whole time. We were done by 4:30 pm and had dinner at the Country Cafe.

10/4: Butler Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Eric Shuler, and Isabella Brown. Surveyed nice dry (mostly) walking passage in Pats Section just past the Air Dig. It was my second cave trip since my 3-month hiatus due to broken ribs. Did some crawling and tight 12-inch squeezes with no detrimental effects. Good survey. This was the BCCS Social/Project weekend, so there was a great spaghetti dinner at the Roost along with some great socializing. On the drive back home, I got sidetracked by a rescue in McClung Cave, WV.

10/4: McClung Cave, WV. On my drive back home from the Butler cave trip, I got a call from Mary Sue just before Eagle Rock. There was a rescue in McClungs going on. A group of nine cavers went into the historic entrance. A girl in the group dislocated her shoulder while arm rappelling down the back end of the First Breakdown. I called Mystik Miller, and she said to come. I showed up about 10:15pm. There was a bunch of fire trucks and ambulances right outside the entrance. When I got there, it was determined that there were enough people in the cave, so there was need to go in. I stayed out and chatted for 20 minutes until cavers started coming out. The injured girl soon emerged. She had a duct tape and webbing arm sling and was able to move along with minimal help. Nick Schmalenberger was there, and he got in as far as the nail climbs before the entrance canyon. I chatted for a while and then headed home. I got home at 1am.

8/29: Nick Schmalenberger and Tri-State Grotto cavers visited **My Cave, WV**. They went to the bottom of the (dry) waterfall. Three caving groups were in the cave. Two were doing Thru-trips.

2025: Ernst Kastning is continuing his *Centennial of the Floyd Collings Accident* tour. He has met descendants of the Collings family and other key people during the cave rescue, and has visited many of the area caves Floyd was familiar with: Sand Cave KY (accident site) Mammoth Cave NP, Floyd Colling Crystal Cave, KY, the Mammoth Cave Church and cemetery, and viewing "Floyd Collings – the Musical" shown in Bowling Green, KY.



Donations – A Good Beginning

By *Mary Sue Socky*

The BRG membership voted to donate a total of \$340.00 to various organizations at the September 2025 meeting. This is a good beginning!

We basically voted to renew dues with the groups we support.

However, can we be generous just a little bit more?

I propose that BRG donate further amounts to these organizations:

West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) – has acquired five new cave properties in the past year. They deserve more than just \$50.00 dues. WVCC cave preserves allow us the privilege of going wild caving! Let's give them \$120.00.

Mid Atlantic Karst Conservancy (MAKC) – has recently purchased more caves. Their preserves are doing well, and they are protecting more MD and PA caves from development. BRG members have visited MAKC preserves! (\$15.00 dues) Give them \$40.00

Southeast Cave Conservancy (SCCI) – owns caves in the Virginias. BRG members visit SCCI caves when they go caving in TAG. Support your regional cave preserves, large and small! \$40.00

BRG currently has the money. Let's spread it around, like fertilizer, where it will do some good. Of course, the suggested amounts can be adjusted. This proposal will be brought up under new business at the 10/17/2025 BRG meeting. Thanks! 🐾

How Cool is that!

Mark Minton

Last weekend (September 13, 2025), while sitting around the campfire in Germany Valley, we saw the International Space Station pass by overhead. One of the astronauts aboard is Zena Cardman, who caved with us in both Germany Valley and in Burnsville Cove several years ago. Yvonne sent her a message, and she replied from the space station! How cool is that - they have email! See conversation below.

From Yvonne:

Hi Zena,

Our group of Germany Valley cavers just watched you pass overhead, around 8 pm, while we were sitting around the campfire. We all waved at you! Wishing you a good stay up there. Vonny, Mark and a bunch more of us.

From: Zena Cardman

Yvonne,

Holy moly, what a beautiful gift to hear from you! Sending all my best from above. The views are amazing but the caves are so far away... I'll have to snag some good pictures of Germany Valley next time we fly over.

Greetings from orbit, Z 🐾



CaveSim and GoFest 2025

Go to **VAR!** but, if you want to hang out closer to home, then help with **CaveSim** at GO Fest Oct 18 - 19, 2025 in downtown Roanoke, VA and nearby Explore Park.

This year CaveSim will be in **Zone 7**. (Closer to the free parking garage.)

GoFest has given BRG and the caving community free tarp/table space, too!

I would really appreciate a few more people committing to **CaveSim**. The more caver volunteers that help will help make **CaveSim** a smooth, enjoyable experience! Volunteer for a 4-hour slot on Saturday 9a – 8p, or Sunday 10a -5p.

Explore all of what GoFest has to offer in your free time.

Contact Mary Sue Socky at sockymss@cox.net or 540-529-3954 to volunteer. See you rain or shine. 🐾



Cave Updates

- **Catawba Murder Hole Cave, VA** is CLOSED
- **Norman Cave, WV** - Parking problems are ongoing. Vehicles will be towed. Go caving elsewhere.
- **Giant Caverns, VA** – now owned by WVCC. Must be vertically competent. More info coming...
- **Friar's Hole, WV** – All entrances on the Mothes' property are now open. Permission must be arranged with landowner in advance for all trips to any entrance. Group size limited to 20 people, no beginners. Please walk, Don't drive to these cave entrances. **Closed Jan – May** be due to poor access & road conditions. 🐾

Fall VAR 2025

October 17–19, RASS Field Station

REMINDER: Pre-Registration with Dinner has now ended. No extra dinners will be offered.

SITE: Since no Grotto has volunteered, the VAR Officers have stepped up to host this one at the **RASS Field Station**, 6076 Deerfield Road, Millboro, VA 24460.

Registration

Fill out and email the form AND register at the following website: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/on-site-registration-3>

You can also use our [Fillable PDF Registration](#) - edit and save it, then email it and send a check as directed.

If not filling out the PDF using a phone or computer, please print so that anyone can read it; in other words, no scribbling. Instructions on where to email or snail mail the form are on the form.

Camping

The RASS Field Station has 26 acres of open grass for camping, and a bath house building with a few showers and flush toilets. Porta johns will be available around the property. Please bring a chair, and everything you will need for the weekend because the site is remote with only a few convenience shops nearby. There will be no onsite trash collection or recycling. Please plan to carry all your trash and recycling home with you.

Cell Service

Cell service at the site is nonexistent to low depending on your carrier. Don't count on it. You may have some limited reception at night, though voice and plain text may work during the day.

Dogs - Yes, well-behaved pets and well-behaved owners, please.

Fires - Allowed ONLY in designated fire rings.

Hotels - Out here? Are you kidding? Maybe in Staunton VA or Covington VA.

Alcohol - BYOB

Caving - Yes! There are lots of caves in the area.

Other Activities

Of course! The Vertical Tower will be open periodically throughout the weekend; you must sign a waiver. There are trails and footpaths around the RASS Field Station and hikes nearby!

Vendors

[Alex Corrigan](#), cave artist

[Cheryl Suitor](#), cave artist, will be selling her amazing and affordable art, mostly paintings.

[Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.](#) (SCCi) will be onsite too. Stop by and learn about this fabulous group, make a donation, get some swag (perhaps).

[WV Underground](#), cave gear

Dinner

- "Fall off the bone" BBQ-sauced chicken
- Vegetable lasagna
- Garden salad with assorted dressings
- Green beans
- Assorted salads (such as coleslaw, macaroni salad, or potato salad)
- Blueberry pies & apple pies
- Unsweet tea & sugar-free lemonade

Schedule

Friday, October 17, 2025

- Registration opens at noon
- Self-guided cave trips
- Trip sign-ups provided we've gotten any trip leaders (Time to be announced)

Saturday, October 18, 2025

- Self-guided cave trips
- Maybe a few led cave trips if we can find any volunteers to lead cave trips
- Dinner at 6 p.m. Don't be late!
- Speaker: Dave Hubbard, "The surprising and significant story of three, not so little, peccaries"

Sunday, October 19, 2025

- VAR Business Meeting @ 9:00 a.m. in the pavilion
- VAR officially ends at noon, so be sure to get packed up before then
- Self-guided cave trips on your way home.

WCVV Banquet 2025

Saturday Nov. 8, 2025



Our annual fundraiser banquet is on Saturday Nov. 8, 2025. The venue is the Clingman Center in downtown Lewisburg, West Virginia. Please consider supporting us by attending! Click here to [PURCHASE A TICKET](#)

The Speakers - The evening's presentation will be from Mark Minton and Yvonne Droms, which is titled "Recent Discoveries in Warm River Cave." It will chronicle the growth of the known cave from half a mile historically, to 4 miles since the breakout in 2013. Warm River is the longest actively thermal cave in the U. S., and probably the third longest such cave in the world. Some streams in the new section are even hotter (up to 100 degrees F) than the historic Hot Stream (85 degrees F). In addition to the expected stream passages, exploration has also revealed significant upper-level development requiring vertical work to reach. Exploration is ongoing.

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

The Food - There are three menu options this year: slow-cooked beef brisket in Au Jus (gluten free), chicken marsala (gluten free in white wine sauce), and vegan kielbasa with peppers and onions (vegan/vegetarian friendly).

Sides include mushrooms and onions (gluten free), vegetarian friendly whipped baby red potatoes, gravy, honey glazed carrots, garden salad (ranch and Italian dressing), homemade rolls with butter, pumpkin sourdough pound cake with maple buttercream glaze, gluten free brownie, fruit tray, lemonade, unsweet tea, and coffee.

The Time - Happy Hour (it's a cash bar) starts at 5 p.m., and dinner is at 7 p.m.

The Cost - Registration is \$50 per person. There will be no 'at the door' meal tickets available. Please make sure to state your meal preference when purchasing.

Deadline - Reservations must be received by Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025.

Parking at the Banquet

Please note that there is limited parking space available at the Clingman Center. These spaces are reserved for mobility-challenged folks.

General banquet parking is available a block away in the lots at Peoples Bank, the Post Office, and the Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

[Directions to the Clingman Center](#)

[Download the Flyer](#)

