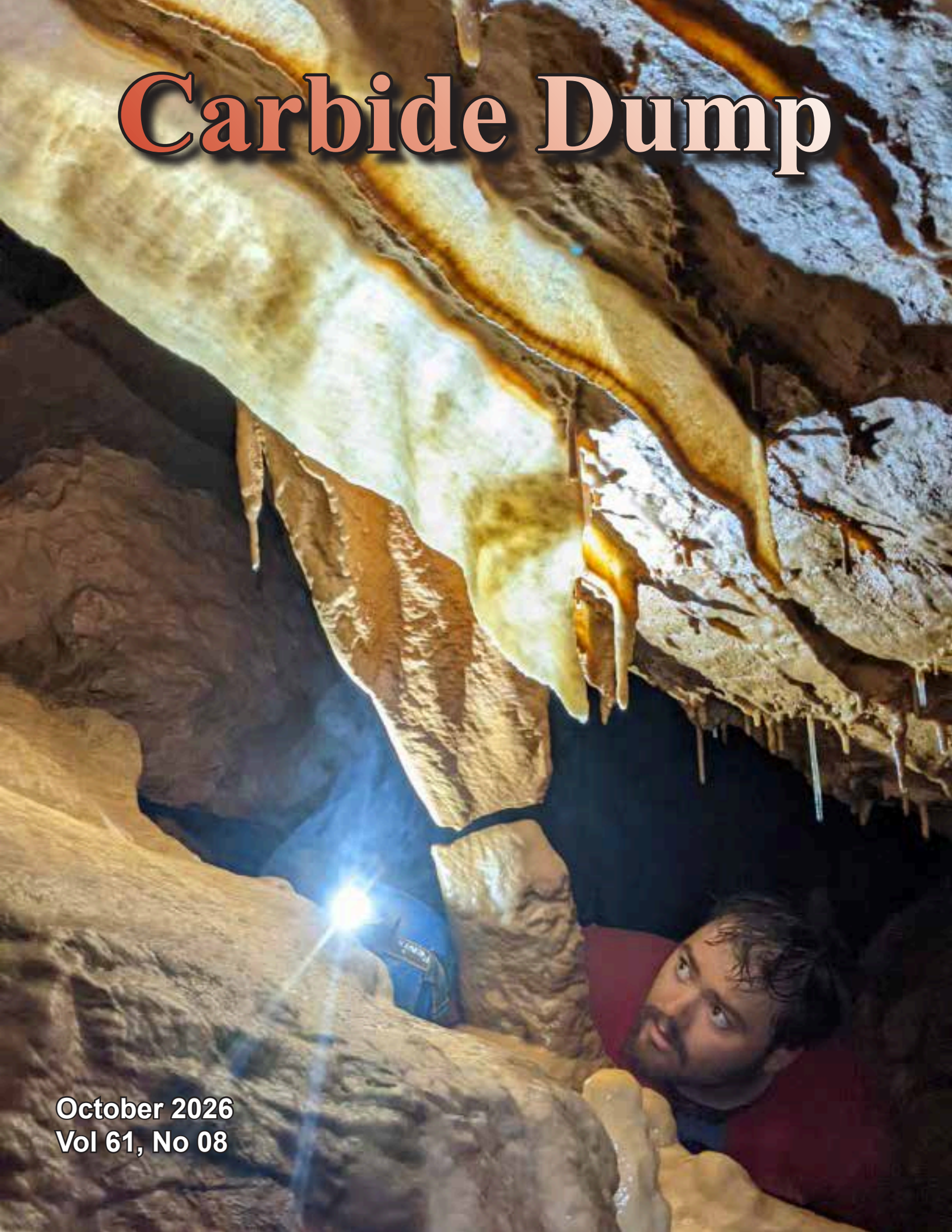


Carbide Dump

A photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a red shirt, looking up at a large, glowing yellow and orange mineral formation in a cave. The formation has a textured, almost crystalline appearance with some darker, more solid rock visible in the background. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright light source illuminating the mineral formation and casting shadows on the surrounding rock.

October 2026
Vol 61, No 08

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: 540-529-3954
email: sockymss@cox.net

EDITORS

David & Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018-5402
H: 540-529-3954
email: sockymss@cox.net or sockydr@cox.net

TRIP COORDINATOR

Susan Burr
4544 Cordell Dr SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
H: 540-580-9409
email: pondlady97@gmail.com

The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 6:30 pm at Famous Anthony's (Brookside), 6499 Williamson Rd, NW Roanoke, VA, 24019.

GROTTO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**Chair**

David Socky
H: 540-529-1591
email: sockydr@cox.net

Vice Chair

Susan Burr
H: 540-580-9409
pondlady97@gmail.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Marian McConnell
H: 540-309-4707
email: marian.mcconnell@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, Susan Burr, Bob Alderson, Ben Hester, Jess Hester, Marian McConnell, John Pearson, Robert Balch, Meredith Weberg, Mark Minton, Nikki Fox, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Jacob Whitlock admires cave bacon in **Pritt Cave (Singularity)**, VA. Photo taken by Dave Socky on September 2, 2026

CAVERS CALENDAR

Oct 8-11: TAG Fall Cave-In @ Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort, Mentone, AL. Hosted by Dogwood City Grotto. See this link. <https://Dogwoodcitygrotto.org/TAG-Fall-Cave-In>. Must be an NSS member.

Oct 16: BRG meeting 6 pm. NOMINATIONS.

Oct. 17-18: Roanoke GO Fest.

Oct. 24: Annual VSS meeting @ Natural Bridge State Park, 11 am.

Nov 14: WVCC Banquet at Mountain Table, Renick, WV. Guest Speaker: Jason Williams, MD. See <https://wvcc.net/banquet/> for more info.

Nov 20: BRG meeting 6pm. BRG Elections.

Nov 27-29: Rock & Mineral Show, Salem Civic Center, Salem, VA. See this [link](#).

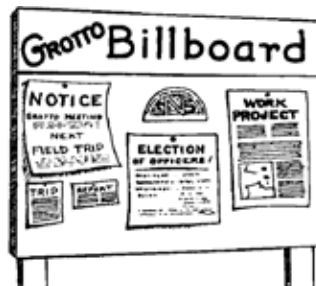
Dec 6: BRG Winter Party at Dave & Mary Socky's house. Noon – 5 pm. Pot Luck, BYOB. Contact sockymss@cox.net for more info.

Dec. 12: WVACS Winter Party, at the field station. Contact Nick Socky sockyns@gmail.com or 540-529-0413.

Dec. 18: NO BRG meeting.

Jan. 15, 2027: BRG meeting.

June 14-18, 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

10/08/2026

Cave Bucks	\$ 147.96
Conservation	\$ 22.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$5,069.47
Total	\$5,483.55

BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

The October 16, 2026 meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held in a private room 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 at the October meeting will be this years Video Salon Best of Show called "Deep - Very, Very, Very Deep - in the Heart of Texas". It is 9 minutes long.

Grotto Trip

Scott Hollow, WV

Date & Time: Saturday, October 17, 2026. Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market (HROM) at 8:30 am.

Leaders: Jeff Huffman & Susan Burr

Coordination: Susan Burr 540-580-9409 pondlady97@gmail.com

Requirements: Horizontal cave, intermediate trip. Participants must be an NSS Member or an experienced caver.

Limit: There is a limit of 10 cavers for this trip.

Description

We will be going to Mystic River upstream to the Double Waterfall. The trip will then head downstream to see the "Ladder", which bypasses the downstream sump. However, we will NOT be going up the ladder!!! This will probably be a 4-5 hour trip.



Pat Sims at the Double Waterfall in 2009.
(Dave Socky)

2026 Fall VAR Notes

150 people attended 2026 Fall VAR and 104 of those went underground! It was a clear Fall VAR, with cold nights and gorgeous days! There were 0 cave rescues, and 0 first aid requests.

THANKS to Emilie Hollingsworth and Elvis Grotto for hosting a great VAR with an OUTSTANDING Greek catered dinner on Saturday evening.

The following are items that were discussed at the VAR meeting on Sunday:

Discussion on future distribution of the **REGION RECORD**. Most subscribers said they were OK with an on-line format. If the **REGION RECORD** goes online, we will have to pay **MailChimp** \$15/month.

There are no volunteers (yet) for 2027 Spring VAR. If there is not a volunteer grotto by Oct. 31, Chair Meredith Weberg will ASSIGN a grotto to host.

VIRGINIA CAVE BOARD – has a full board! VCB is planning a tribute to Phil Lucas. VCB has extra "Cave Quest" educational bandannas available.

SCCI is in its 35th year. They currently own 40 caves in 7 states. Cyclops Cave VA and Salamander Cave, VA is being managed by Erin Thomas (an additional manager is needed). Grants from SCCI are available. SCCI is encouraging the preservation of micro-environments around cave entrances. After you dig it open, try to make the entrance as small/natural as you originally found it. (Bill Stringfellow)

NSS vs. VAR Anti- Harassment policies. The VAR has an Anti-Harassment Policy and the NSS has an Anti-Harassment Policy. These versions are different. The VAR Officers recommend we drop the VAR version and support the NSS version. Note that the NSS is currently investigating 24 cases of harassment. Regions need to coordinate with the NSS to find out who is a 'problem child'. If there is an incident at a regional or local meet, get the person's name, throw them out immediately, and report them to the NSS. There is no excuse for this kind of behavior!



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.



T-Shirts: There are 10 remaining T-shirts! \$12.00 each. L or 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 the this link - blueridgegrottoofficers@gmail.com for PayPal.

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

BATS: New research on bat genomics gives insights on how and where bats evolved: See this [link](#) for an article from Live Science, and this [link](#) for one from Nature. Thanks to Mark Minton for posting this.

WINTER Bat Closure for some caves. Closure may affect different caves (hibernacula).

WV: winter- closed Sept 01-May 15
VA: winter - closed Oct 15-Apr. 15



Triplet Flood & Singularity Leads

A Warm Springs Anticline and Karst Survey Report - Sept 9, 2026

Article by *Bob Alderson*



On September 2, Dave Socky, Bill Koerschner, Jacob Whitlock, Jonathan Constantine, and I met on the side of Route 220 and prepared to go to Triplet Cave, VA.

We had a well-developed plan to survey the new passages discovered so exuberantly at the end of a 50-foot dig in sand and gravel. There was unsurveyed passage ahead that had only been lightly scooped. Previous efforts to return had been stymied by the puddle at the end of the crawl that had mysteriously turned into a lake.

Our plan was for Dave, Jonathan, and Jacob to proceed ahead and survey in the exciting downstream canyon while Bill plodded along behind doing detailed stratigraphic sections. I planned to stay behind to make the climb at the top of the first drop more appropriate for septuagenarian cavers and then join the others to survey.

Due to the heavy rains the week before maybe the lake was there, or maybe not. There were several opinions voiced but no bets were made and no money was laid on it. But Triplet had its own way with us. The dig near the entrance that had been dug out to a hands and knees crawlway was now a tight belly crawl that we had to grunt and push our packs through. Recent rains had washed mud and sand in.



Bacon in Singularity Cave (Dave Socky)

At the drop the others pushed ahead of me and I started my work. I could hear them clattering away ever more dimly as they went deeper in. But as I worked the noise they made never totally disappeared as I expected and eventually grew louder again signaling their return. So, I thought,

the lake had closed the passage again. But I was wrong. The entire 50-foot dig was again filled to within 2 inches of the ceiling with sand and gravel that had washed in. It seems that all of Allegheny County washes into Triplet when it rains enough.

We all slogged out the entrance belly crawl and sat in the hot sun by the cars considering what to do with the rest of the day. The unanimous decision was to go to Singularity Cave and search for air flow. At Keith's garage we met with him and picked up a bottle of poof powder to blow into the air to make air flow easy to detect. Driving to the bottom of the ridge below the entrance we parked and put on our vertical gear before climbing up through the field on the steep hillside.

The entrance to Singularity Cave is in the middle of the field below the ridge. It is covered with a heavy wood pallet that some worked to remove while I tightened the loose anchor bolt above. The rope rigged and the rope pad in position: I went down the 40' drop to the warm room below and looked up at the breakdown above my head. The others came down bringing a shower of loose rocks with them. We dispersed in different directions to squirrel around in the breakdown.

Bill and Dave took the poof powder into the breakdown below the entrance where Bill found air was being sucked into the breakdown. He was determined to find a connection to Wave Function Cave, not far away, and create the greater Falling Spring Valley Cave System.



Jacob Whitlock in Singularity (Dave Socky)

I climbed through breakdown across a flowstone slope and climbed into an alcove above what was apparently a terminal survey station and found a small opening above mud fill at the ceiling. Of course, this was the day I decided not to bring my mason's hammer, so I dug in the hard packed mud with a rock I found. Dave joined and dug for a while, and then I returned to dig. But we never quite made it big enough. A hammer will make short work of it. We could look ahead into a long slopping crawlway about 30' where it appears to open into a room at the bottom of the slope. Bill came up with the poof powder, but it did not indicate any air flow and Bill moved on.

Meanwhile Jonathan and Jacob had gone the other direction and climbed down a flowstone cemented rubble slope to some pretty white formations at the bottom. Jonathan moved some rocks away from the top of a hole below the breakdown and climbed down through some dodgy breakdown into unsurveyed passage. It continued down to some potential dig leads although the poof powder indicated no air flow. A couple of the leads headed into fissures at the bottom but at the more interesting one we could look down through an opening in the rubble to what may be a canyon 10 feet below. Getting to and from these leads requires climbing through unconsolidated rubble that has great avalanche potential.

When we went in Singularity Cave, we thought it was complete, but it's not.

We reconvened at the bottom of the drop and climbed back out into the late afternoon heat. The entrance was derigged, covered and we were done at 7:30 pm.



Friars Hole, WV Trip Report

Article by *Susan Burr*

9/19/26

Participants: Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Jess Hester, Ben Hester, Jonathan Constantine, Nick Schmalenberger, Tim Boone, and Alex Thompson.

This was a through trip from the Friars Hole North Entrance to the Snedegars Entrance.

As we headed into the lower stream entrance we noticed it was basically dry. There was an occasional small pool of water, some with crayfish and one with a small salamander. I had informed everyone of a caver doing research in the cave and we were not to touch any of the equipment seen. We did see lots of his equipment, but no one touched anything.

This trip required doing a 15-foot body rappel into the cave fairly early on. Several in the group had never done this before, but were excited to try. We explained to everyone how to do a body rappel and then had them watch Jeff and others as they went down. Everyone made it down successfully. We may have had a couple who got a little bruised though. Nick was instrumental in rigging the drop so we could do a pull down once he finished the drop. Jeff was below helping with individual instructions as needed.

As we were getting ready to continue from the bottom of the drop, Jess noticed

one of the biggest salamanders we have ever seen before. After taking a bunch of pictures, we continued to the saltpeter maze. In there we saw several old saltpeter vats. As we headed further in, we got to the spot where the stick is holding up the ceiling. At least that's what I told everyone. Jonathan also gave us a nice pole dancing show!

Next we ended up in a room filled with LOTS & LOTS of rock cairns. It had a sign that mentioned that the last time the rocks cairns were removed was in the flood of May 2001.

Next stop was the formation room. Not a lot of formations, but we saw them! Also saw a few bats and some rimpools which were mostly dry.

As we headed out toward the Snedegars entrance, it got really foggy looking in the cave. Jess found two different types of salamanders just inside the entrance area.

We had a nice 3 1/2 hour cave trip. Since we finished fairly early we stopped off at Beartown on the way to dinner in Lewisburg. Several cavers had not ever been to Beartown before. Part of the boardwalk was closed, but you could see most of it. Fun was had by all.



Snedegars borehole. Photo by Ben Hester



The BRG crew at the top of the 15' arm rappel. Photo by Ben Hester



Salamander. Photo by Jess Hester

Smokehole Cave, VA Trip Report

Article by *Susan Burr*

8/1/26

Participants: Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Jess Hester, Ben Hester, Jonathan Constantine, Bambi Marshall, and Lauren Appel

On the way to the hillside entrance, we stopped by to check out the water entrance. Jeff and I wanted to make sure it looked like it was open enough for us to try to go through. Then we headed up the hill to the other entrance.

The entrance passage is steep and slippery. We were all very careful going in. We found 4 salamanders and a green frog in this section. Once we got to the bottom at the stream, we saw several sculpins. When everyone was down, we headed into the cave to explore.

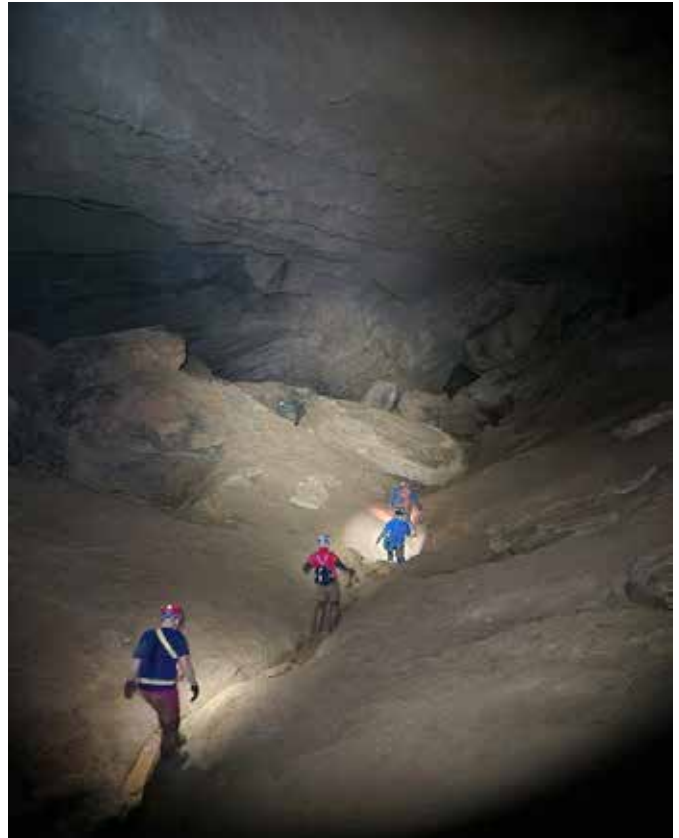
There are walking, crawling, sliding, and climbing passages. Many are tight and/or awkward. Yes, we had to crawl or walk through some mud and of course, water. One of our favorite passages was the awkward, very slippery tight mud hole we had to go through. It was just fun. We may not have liked the tight awkward stream crawl passage, but it took us to a section we had fun exploring. We saw lots and lots of beautiful formations and rimpools.

We tried to explore the majority of the cave. I think we messed up in one section, but we got to see more of the cave. Heading back toward the entrance, we did get

slightly turned around. We were in the right area, but took another passage right next to the one we needed. Again, some of us got to see more really pretty formations because of this. Of course, we did figure it out and got back to the section below the hillside entrance.

We all decided we were going to go out the water entrance. Jeff led the way with Lauren following. I had warned them that once the freezing water hits their chest, it would possibly take their breath away, and it did! The first duck under was not bad but the water got very deep and we did have to swim a bunch. In the second duck under, it was necessary tilt your head to get through. It was a real ear dipper, and some of us may have sucked in a little water! The third duck under was not as bad but worse than the first one.

At times I think some of us regretted our decision to go out that way, but in the end



Big passage with mud. Photo by Ben Hester

we were glad we did it. It was just so very cold!

The passage to the water entrance is a lot longer than I had remembered. I was surprised by the last section which was highly decorated with really nice formations. We also saw another salamander.

Finally someone hollered they saw daylight and we were super excited the end was near. We all made it out. Some of us were shivering, but at least it wasn't a cold day.

We had a 5 hour and 40 minute cave trip. After we got changed, Jess and Ben had to head back to a family dinner. The rest of us headed to the Mexican Restaurant in Blacksburg. Since the restaurant was so cold and we were already still cold from the cave trip, we ate outside. It was very nice! We noticed that we were a bit sore or stiff from the trip when we tried to stand up after dinner. Overall everyone loved this cave trip!



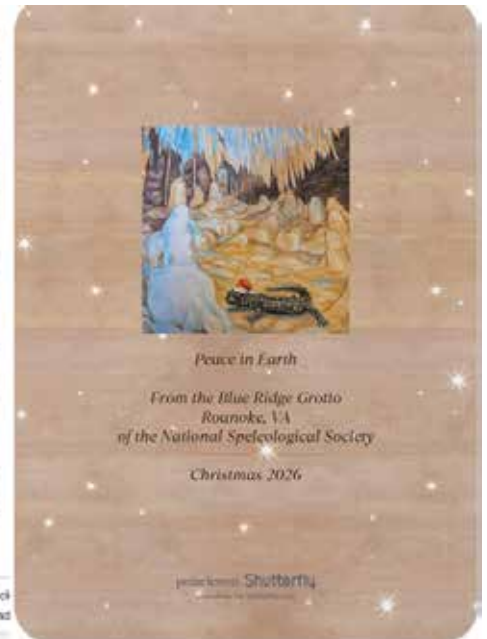
The wet exit out of Smokehole. Photo by Susan Burr

Proposed Blue Ridge Grotto Christmas Card

Marian McConnell has done it again! To the right is the proposed BRG Christmas Card that Marian has drawn. This is a great design of a salamander hanging onto a bat, flying through a cave. What fun!

Cost estimates from Shutterfly for the Christmas cards are: 70 cards on 5x7 signature smooth card stock (front and back color) with plain white envelopes. The basic cost is \$223.10, but it's on sale at \$140.00 which would be a savings of \$93.10. Shipping will be free and tax is \$8.06 so total would be \$148.06 (\$2.12 per card).

So far, everyone has been very positive.



Safety notice

From OnRope1 Facebook

Safety notice: OnRope1 Goliath harnesses manufactured by Elk River.

OnRope1 has submitted a formal product-safety complaint to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding harnesses manufactured by Elk River Manufacturing.

Please share this information with your grotto and other cavers who may be using this equipment...

According to OnRope1, the company has repeatedly identified manufacturing and quality-control problems with some harnesses, including stitching and buckle/hardware issues. OnRope1 says it has stopped production and sale of its F-73 and F-74 harnesses manufactured by Elk River while the matter is being reviewed.

If you own an OnRope1 harness manufactured by Elk River (particularly an F-73 or F-74) check your harness carefully before using it. If you believe your harness may be unsafe, or aren't sure how

to properly verify its proper construction, do not use it until you have received guidance from an expert.

If you believe you have an affected harness, contact OnRope1 for instructions.

Learn more and find the company's contact information here: <https://onrope1.com/goliath-harness-updates/>



CAVE ACCESS

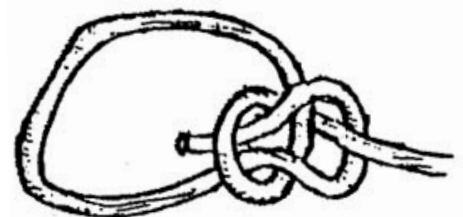
(October 2026)

Rehoboth Church Cave (Monroe Co. WV) is CLOSED by the owner, who is different from the parking area. Permission to park is NOT permission to visit the cave.

Bone Cave (Greenbrier Co. WV) Cave is OPEN, but parking space is limited. DO NOT block the owner's gate when visiting the cave.

Norman Cave (Greenbrier Co. WV) Norman currently has NO ROADSIDE PARKING. You can either do a drop-off at the cave or park at Bubble Cave LLC and walk a mile to the Norman entrance.

Breathing Cave (Bath Co. VA) is closed for the winter/hunting season.



Gratta Trip Log

8/22: Triplet Cave & Hide-A-Hole, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bill Koerschner, Bob Alderson (North Twin). Andrew Newton, Mia Blyseth, Connor Smith, Luke Solem, Drew Holcomb, Erich Brumback (Triplet), and Keith Sweeney (support). Some of the group dug on North Twin while Mia & others checked the lake in Triplet. It was open, but by this time it was decided to go to Hide-A-Hole and dig instead. Andrew did most of the technical digging and was able to get in. It was a dead bottom pit. Dave went down and surveyed it. It was 35 feet deep.

8/22: Benedict Cave, WV. BRG trip to the Persinger Entrance. Participants included Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Jess Hester, Ben Hester, Jonathan Constantine, Lauren Appel, and Tim Boone. We originally missed the turn into the property because it was so overgrown! We parked & changed in grass/weeds taller than the van. We did not have any issues finding the cave. We had a good 5+ hour trip, exploring several areas Dave Socky had marked on the map for us. We only saw one bat near the entrance. We also saw several salamanders. We did get pretty muddy and we did manage to see a bunch of formations.

8/22: Butler Cave, VA. Robert Balch was part of a party of 12 that spent 90 minutes in Butler Cave, VA

8/29: Crossroads Cave, VA. Participants included Jeff and Hillary Huffman, Ben and Jess Hester, Nick Schmalenberger, Jonathan Constantine, Bambi Marshall, and Susan Burr. This was a pickup trip because Hillary wanted to go caving and Jeff suggested Crossroads Cave. I thought it would be okay. Jeff promised not to take us on the floorless canyon route!!! We did get around the pit, but further in it started to get a bit more difficult than we had anticipated. Several in the group explored around, but we didn't find a route that everyone was good with, so we eventually headed out. As we headed to dinner, I suggested stopping off at a swinging bridge over the Cowpasture River. Yes, we were all like kids playing on the bridge! It's just fun!!

9/2 Triplet Cave & Singularity Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bill Koerschner, Bob Alderson, Jacob Whitlock, and Jonathan Constantine. Aborted survey in Triplet because the crawlway was filled in from flooding and finding new leads in Singularity. See article on page 62.

9/5: CaveSim, WV. Trish Geiger did CaveSim at OTR. This was the 75th Anniversary of the Old Timers Reunion (OTR). About 1500 cavers were there. She and others blew bubbles in the Doodah Parade in support of CaveSim and won an honorable mention.

9/15: Vatnshellir Lava Cave, Iceland. Participants included David Socky, Mary Sue Socky, Meredith Weberg, and Allan Weberg. This was a commercial lava tube on the Snaefellsnes Peninsula at the eastern end of Iceland. It was a small lava tube, but very deep. There were two long spiral staircases to access two long chambers. It was cold - 37 degrees F.

9/15: Songhellir Cave, Iceland. Participants included David Socky, Mary Sue Socky, Meredith Weberg, and Allan Weberg. Songhellir is translated as "Song". The cave was a wind eroded chamber that had an excellent echo and included lots of old signatures. The chamber is about 20 feet in diameter with several short side channels. There were several other wind eroded 'caves' in the area, but they didn't echo like Songhellir. It was about a 300-foot walk over rock and dirt from the road. Not commercial.

9/15: Inside the Volcano, Iceland. Participants included David Socky, Mary Sue Socky, Meredith Weberg, and Allan Weberg. Only 40 minutes from Reykjavik, this was a volcanic shaft that goes down 400 feet to a long dormant empty magma chamber. It's a 2-mile hike from the car to the small cinder cone where the shaft is located. You go down the shaft on a winch driven platform, similar to a window washing platform. We were clipped in via dual cows tail with a harness. We had helmets with LED lights. The magma chamber is perhaps 400 feet by 400 feet and 150 feet high. It is partially filled with volcanic

breakdown. Sections of the walls were very colorful. Lots of geology...

9/24: CaveSim at Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield, VA. John Pearson reports that Cave Sim went quite well. Weather was primo in the 70s. RASS set up a caving pop-up with Margo and Rich Geisler, plus others, but the real winner was Lyn Pearson. She did great with all the kids. Quite a difference between all the "caving" kids at OTR and the "general public" kids at this event. Cave Sim had the best participation in the area we were set up at, although I never saw the other portions of the park (with food vendors etc). Unfortunately, we had zero participation from anyone from the state legislature.

9/26: Neal's Sinks Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Andrew Newton, Mia Blyseth, Ned Rose, and Liz Alzubi. It was Fall VAR weekend. This was a cave Liz wanted to check out. This cave had three sinkhole entrances connected together via a stream passage, making for very nice multiple karst windows. The cave went in both the upstream and downstream directions. We started in the westernmost sink and surveyed upstream in a very nice walking river passage for 520 feet. We stopped at a low ear dip crawl which opens back up right away. It still goes. It was a fun four-hour trip.

9/30: Dunn's Cave, VA. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, Bill Koerschner, Joe Zokaite. Went to work on the pit and the dig lead with air. It took the rest of the day to just work on the pit. It turned out to be 50 feet deep with pooled water at the bottom. The water was an unknown depth, but over our heads. It goes, but will require swimming, which we didn't do. We surveyed almost 100 feet for a 5.5 hour trip.





West Virginia Cave Conservancy Annual Banquet



Held at Mountain Table
in Renick, WV.

Saturday, Nov 14, 2026

Happy Hour (cash bar)
5 p.m. & Dinner 7 p.m.

Banquet Speaker: Jason Williams, MD, will present "Brought to Light: The Mysterious George Washington Masonic Cave." The cave near Charles Town, West Virginia, contains George Washington's signature dated 1748. Known for many things, he was also a smart surveyor and a speleologist, an explorer of caves. Meandering the dark passageways of this cave brings us to an even closer appreciation of why he still inspires us today.

Silent Auction: There will be the traditional Silent Auction at the banquet. Item donations are welcome. Please bring money to bid on the many treasures.

Menu: There will be a charcuterie spread and salad bar before dinner. Dessert to follow for those who save room. Sides include: garlic mashed potatoes, roasted root vegetables, and cornbread. The main courses to choose from are as follows:

- **Beef Brisket (\$50):** Brisket à la Provençale — Slow-braised with tomato, garlic, olives, and herbs; a Southern French-inspired dish that's savory and herb-forward.
- **Chicken (\$50):** Lemon Herb — Bright and savory with lemon, garlic, and fresh herbs; a classic Mediterranean-style roast that's clean and familiar.
- **Vegan (\$40):** Roasted squash and tofu with nutritional yeast. Sides will be the same as above, but crafted without the use of animal products.

Cash Bar: Tabs can be started for those who want alcoholic beverages. There will be local beer, wine, and 5-6 basic cocktails.

Banquet Registration: Reservations must be received by Saturday, October 24. There will be no 'at the door' meal tickets available. Make checks payable to WVCC and mail to: WVCC Banquet, c/o Mitch Berger, P.O. Box 2538, Woburn, MA 01888-1038. Tickets can also be purchased online at: www.wvcc.net/banquet.



Yes, I will attend the West Virginia Cave Conservancy's Annual Banquet in 2026:

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of meals: Beef Brisket (\$50) _____ Chicken (\$50) _____ Vegan (\$40) _____

(if you are registering multiple people please include a note saying which meal each person wants.)

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Upcoming BRG Nominations

BRG will begin the Nominations for office during the October 16, 2026, grotto meeting.

Who can run for office?

- » Any current adult Regular BRG member who has been a BRG member for more than a year can run for grotto office.
- » Consider becoming a BRG Officer – see BRG By-laws to see the requirements and responsibilities for each

office. https://blueridgegrotto.org/organization_set.htm

- » All current Officers have served the maximum of two years and must step down from their current position. Which means – we need a new Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Current Officers:

Chair

David Socky, NSS #16334

Vice Chair

Susan Burr, NSS #53888

Secretary

Mary Sue Socky, NSS #24206

Treasurer

Marian McConnell, NSS #37358

We can have more than one person running for office! Anyone else wish to step up?

Nominations will close at the November 2026 (11/20) BRG meeting, after which voting will take place.