



The Region Record

Vol. XIV No. 4 Fall 2001

Chairman's Column

I've recently returned from the NSS Convention in Mt. Vernon, KY. At the Banquet and Awards ceremony, many members of the region received well deserved recognition. We should all congratulate those members who received their fellowships for outstanding service on a local and national level. The VAR has a member who is the newest recipient of the Lew Bicking Award, as it was explained for his hardcharging exploration and his always survey as you go philosophy for the last 4 1/2 decades. Congratulations to Phil Lucas.

Members of VAR were everywhere you looked and still, there were several members that could not make convention this year and were missed.

The NSS was 60 years old and the convention goes celebrated with cake and a multi-media slide show of the first 60 years.

This is also VAR's 50th year, think of all that has happened in our first 50 years. We have grown from spelunkers to cavers. We have gone from carpooling in groups of 5 and 6 to frequently no more than 2 people in a vehicle that seats 8. We no longer have ducks in our sleeping bags (life is good). We still debate which state has more caves VA or WV and, after 50 years, they are still within 1 or 2 caves of each other.

We owe thanks to so many people, who laid the foundation that we continue to build upon. We still

have volunteers, who put more into caving than they do with their day jobs, and for this we thank you.

Craig

WVCC Purchases Island Ford Cave Entrance

The West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) has purchased Island Ford Cave, located in Allegany County, Virginia (a few miles east of Covington). The entrance and 5.22 acres of surrounding property was purchased on May 23 after several weeks of negotiations. Island Ford Cave is over 2,200 feet long and has been popular with locals and cavers for many years. The cave has a horizontal entrance over 60 feet high that is located directly adjacent to historic old State Route 60. WVCC will own and manage the entrance.

The cave will be maintained in an "open" condition, and will be freely available to all experienced cavers, regardless of affiliation. WVCC's first step is to build a parking area and access trail. An informational Kiosk will be installed to provide visitors with important facts about the cave and surrounding area. Access to Island Ford Cave is open as no permits or reservations are required. No overnight camping or open fires are permitted. A complete cave management plan as well as membership information for

WVCC can be accessed through the WVCC website (www.wvcc.net).

The Island Ford Cave is the latest in properties owned, leased or managed by the WVCC. Other properties include Haynes Cave, Lobelia Saltpeter Cave, Rapps Cave the Historic Entrance to McClungs Cave and The Lightners Entrance to McClungs Cave.

Tales of a Misspent Easter: The 11th Annual Grand Caverns Restoration Camp April 13-15, 2001

by Andy Reeder

A sea of wavering bluebells and phlox covered the ground as the first carloads of cavers began to arrive at the Natural Chimneys Campground in Mt. Solon, Virginia. The crisp April air cooled quickly as the sun descended towards the darkened ridge tops and nylon tents began to spring up around the pavilion in a languid burst of activity. The sound of slamming cooler lids echoed off the leaning pine trees as beverages were consumed in anticipation of the next day's activities. The 2001 Grand Caverns Restoration Camp had begun!

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The *Region Record*

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The *Region Record* is the quarterly publication of the Virginia Region of the National Speleological Society. Any articles, announcements, or other materials of general interest to cavers in the Region are welcome. **Send all material to Bob Hoke (6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707 (301)725-5877, E-mail bobhoke@erols.com).** Electronic submissions (email or disk) are encouraged, but any form of input is welcome.

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The *Region Record* is printed by members of the DC Grotto and the Potomac Speleological Club.

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Regional Calendar

Aug 30 - Sep 3 **Old Timers Reunion** near Elkins, WV. You must be a TRA member or guest of a TRA member. The ban on early arrivals will be strictly enforced this year.

Sep. 22 **Trout Rock Conser-Vacation.** Help clean up the NSS-owned Trout Rock caves in West Virginia. See article in this issue. (Originally scheduled for Oct. 13).

Sept. 28-30 **Fall VAR meeting** to be hosted by RASS at their field station in Virginia. See flyer and preregistration form in this issue. Deadline for preregistration discount is **September 8!**

Sep 30 A **CCV business meeting** will immediately following the VAR business meeting. There will be a review of the past years happenings and the annual election.

Nov. 10 **WVCC annual banquet** at the Brier Inn in Lewisburg, WV. There will be led trips to several caves during the day prior to the banquet.

Spring, 2002 **Spring VAR meeting** to be hosted by the WVCC.

June 24-28, 2002 **2002 NSS convention** in Camden, Maine

Aug. 4-8, 2003 **2003 NSS Convention** in Porterville, CA

LIST YOUR CLUB EVENTS HERE!

If your club is hosting events of regional interest, send a notice to the *Region Record* editors and have the event added to the next *Record's* calendar. There is no charge for this valuable service.

Grand Caverns

(continued from Page 1)

There are certain significant days of the year that we identify with a particular place or event. The holidays resonate with memories of well-worn homesteads and familiar surroundings. To many cavers, the stygian confines of Grand Caverns have become synonymous with the annual Easter celebration. The ensuing rituals of gravel hauling and formation repair have become a mantra of cave conservation in the Virginias and a way of marking the passing of years. Like the nearby South River, participants eventually find their way back to this event year after year.

Saturday morning found the assembled masses gathering together before 9:00 a.m. in the Grand Caverns parking area. Participants from across Virginia waited as the new Park Manager, Cindy Miller, welcomed them to Grand Caverns. After a few minutes of last-minute administrative minutia, the cavers were split into two groups and headed towards their respective work areas in Grand Caverns and nearby Fountain Cave.

Walking up the steep incline towards the Caverns, one is struck by the same awe-inspiring view of the flat-lying Cambrian carbonate valley floor as Thomas Jefferson, Stonewall Jackson, and countless other Cavern visitors.

Discovered by 17 year-old Bernard Weyer, Grand Caverns has fascinated the general public ever since that eventful day in 1807. Its subterranean grandeur is truly a marvel of arcane beauty. The famous Bridal Veil, Stonewall Jackson's Horse, Cathedral Hall, and Dante's Inferno are just a few of the enigmatic treasures located within the hushed dimness of Grand Caverns.

Upon arriving at the entrance to Grand Caverns, the cavers were

greeted by an immense stoic pile of gravel. Both caver and gravel piled eyed each other suspiciously for several minutes. The cavers blinked first and the gravel pile nestled in upon itself in grim satisfaction. Nobody claimed inanimate objects were bright, but they are patient.

Meanwhile, other participants were strung out through the caverns spraying for moss, taking pictures, and generally amusing themselves with any underage troglodytes available. There was a learning curve to this year's expedition as new participants grappled with the logistics of hauling tons of gravel into the cave to refurbish the commercial trail. Fortunately, most folks retained a sense of humor throughout the event.

At the appointed hour cavers from both Grand and Fountain Caves ambled down to the pavilion for lunch. Sandwiches and assorted sundries were torn apart and consumed with reckless abandon. Afterwards the sated cavers burped in unison thus signaling the end of the afternoons repast.

The crew from the morning shift at Grand Caverns headed up to Fountain Cave to begin the afternoons work. As they departed, there was a fair amount of good-natured teasing from the remaining cavers who were to work in Grand Caverns. Each group was intent upon restoring the greatest number of cave formations by the end of the day.

The process was simple. Likely candidate formations were located amid the tumble of broken speleothemes within Fountain Cave. Once a match was discovered, the formation was weighed, measured, and cataloged. A numbered flag was placed nearby. The formation was dried with a propane torch and a fast-drying epoxy applied. The formation was then set and located on a sketch. The most difficult part of the procedure was sorting through the thousands of calcite

shards scattered throughout the vacuous darkness. The excited cries of children pierced the periods of silence as whole families jovially scampered across the clay covered floors.

As the day began to fade, cavers moved down to the parking area. There was some confusion as several female members of the restoration crew were bewildered about the mandatory post-event medical inspection conducted by Don "Doc" Anderson. Fortunately, Don was not badly injured by the Ladies as the whole crew made their way over to Natural Chimneys for dinner and debauchery (which-ever came first).

A dinner of portabella ravioli, vegetables, salad, and cheesecake was washed backed with copious beverages. The Grand Caverns Restoration Camp has turned into a real family affair with soda going down faster than beer. How that ever happened shall remain as mysterious as the interbedded limestones and dolomites of the chimneys themselves.

Tons of gravel were hauled into Grand Caverns and over 60 formations were repaired in Fountain Cave. Fifty cavers participated in this year's event. A heartfelt thanks goes out to all of this year's participants, who included: Andy & Anne Reeder (NRVG); Meredith Hall Johnson; Don Anderson (NRVG); Todd & Jacqueline Miley (BATS); April Muldoon; Dawn & Patrick Farris (SVG & RCSS); Raymond & Dana Herlong (BATS); Nikki & Steve Bennett (BATS); Jaime, Jessica, & John Reep (MUSG); Kelsea Johnson (MUSG); Erin Droms; Mike "Tiny" & Vicky Manke (BATS); Jerry & Lindsay Huehn; Ted Dangerfield (BATS); Dana Herlong; Richard E. Robinson; Jim McConkey; Jennifer Neeman; Cathy & Carolyn Freeli; Ellie Florance; Kathlin McConkey; Mary Sue, Dave, & Nicholas Socky (BRG); Scott Griso; Brad Shaw &

Family; Gary & Nick Talbot; G. Lyle Teft (NRVG); Cassie Eekin; and a cast of thousands.

Special thanks to Don Anderson for providing medical assistance, Lyle Teft for gravel engineering, and Mike "Tiny" Manke, for Fountain restoration activities. Additional thanks also go to the Upper Valley Regional Park Authority for all their continued assistance in these restoration activities.

Easter is a time of celebration. There is no greater sense of satisfaction than spending a few hours, once a year, helping each other bring new life to an old cave. There is no joy better shared than that shared by cavers.

Cave on.

VSS Report

by Phil Lucas

Virginia has just passed the 3,900 mark for the number of recorded caves thanks to Mike Manke, Raymond Herlong, Bob Alderson, Nevin Davis, Gregg Clemmer, Wil Orndorff and Dave Hubbard who submitted cave reports just prior to the NSS Convention. Thanks guys! The next thousand milestone will be a nice round number - 4,000! Now some may say, "It's just a number." Well, statistics are statistics, but the real story, of course, is the caves. It is a fact, the more we learn about caves, the more we realize the importance of these natural resources. And a most basic fact is simply that they exist. The most effective way to establish the cave's existence is to establish a record in the Va. Speleological Survey (VSS) database. Sounds easy, but doing the paperwork is the bane of most cavers. The editors of newsletters will agree on this point. Nonetheless there have been some faithful

cavers who have provided the knowledge we have accumulated today. I will try to acknowledge these folks in future Region Records. If you want to make your mark in history, well speleo history anyway, this is a good way to do it.

On another newsfront, VDOT is on the front page. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has accepted the request by the VSS and the Butler Cave Conservation Society (BCCS) to allow the gating of a cave entrance on VDOT right of way. This is how it happened. The bottom of a small sink collapsed sometime in the past two years and went unnoticed until a telephone repairman scrambled up a bank along a secondary road to get to a telephone relay. When he reached the top of the bank, he looked down into a fissure that opened into blackness below. He reported this to VDOT and to a nearby neighbor who got word to a local caver, Nevin Davis. This "new cave" was quickly explored and found to have about 2,000 feet of passage and promise of more.

VDOT's typical way of dealing with this type of situation would be to fill the fissure with graded rock. Concern for how VDOT would deal with this cave lead to a meeting with VDOT representatives where we explained why and how the cave's entrance could be left open. We proposed that a culvert style gate be installed and managed by a local caving organization, the BCCS. VDOT has issued the necessary permit and the gate has been installed by the BCCS. This is the first time to my knowledge that such an agreement has been struck. Hopefully more of these arrangements can be accomplished in the future. Caving organizations are essential to the success of such projects. VDOT will not agree to such arrangements where there are no managers.

As you would expect, VDOT is the owner of many Va. Caves and their

highway improvement projects will impact caves. One such highway project is the Route 340 improvement in Front Royal. The Front Royal Grotto working under the leadership of Janet Tinkham has done a lot of work to examine and survey the caves along this project area. In the last Region Record, Janet went into more detail but the outcome of this will have two major impacts, to lessen the road improvement impact on caves and to increase the knowledge we have about Warren County Caves.

While we are on the subject of VDOT caves, another situation comes to mind. As you may know, the VSS has the opportunity to review projects in their planning stage in the karst areas of Virginia. This includes VDOT projects. And as you may know, Interstate 81 is planned to be widened throughout its entire length. One of the project segments that have come to the VSS for review is located north of the Lexington area. When Interstate was first constructed, the entrance of Billy Williams Cave was covered over by the North bound lane shoulder. The cave had, at that time, isopods, amphipods, crayfish and millipedes collected by Dr. Holsinger and was considered an important biological cave. According to an old report in our records this was a cave that had been known for a long time and had old signatures on the walls. As a part of my review comments, it was recommended that this cave be re-opened perhaps with a culvert type access where a local caving organization can retain a key and manage the cave for further study such as ground water monitoring. It will be interesting to see how to see how Billy Williams Cave will fare in the future. Another interesting upcoming situation with the interstate widening is I-81 Cave. This is a significant cave over a mile long with a cave stream. Stay tuned. The more documentation we have prior to a planned project the more opportunity we have to protect our subterranean resources.

The Augusta County survey has once again resurfaced. Josh Rubinstein of Charlottesville has volunteered to be the county's director and will be twisting arms as he continues the process of examining the limestone and dolomite caves that others before him have done. Augusta County has an interesting blend of caves, some old fossils of ancient limestones and some brand new and still under development. Some are very beautiful (Grand Caverns) and some not so beautiful (Glade Cave, formally known as The Mud Hole). One of Virginia's most significant caves, Madison Saltpeter Cave is in Augusta County. If you get a chance to help Josh out please do so. I'm sure you will find it rewarding.

Phil Lucas Gets NSS Low Bicking Award

by Bob Hoke

Phil Lucas, head of the Virginia Speleological Survey and one of the most active hard-core cavers in the Region, won the NSS' prestigious Low Bicking Award. The annual award recognizes an individual NSS member who, through specific actions, has demonstrated a dedication to the thorough exploration and mapping of a cave or group of caves. The award is generally considered to be the Society's highest award for actual caving activities.

Phil has been an active caver for over 40 years and continues to be heavily involved in many of the significant exploration and mapping efforts in both Virginia and West Virginia.

VPI Grotto receives NSS Certificate of Merit

by Gary Moss

The VPI Grotto was awarded a Certificate of Merit for the work the Grotto did in supplying field support to document Karst resources in Skydusky Hollow in South West Virginia on the behalf of and at the request of Bland and Wythe County Virginia and many of their respective land owners. This field work was used to oppose a new High voltage transmission line through this pristine karst area. Whether the project is moved to another area or still goes through the project area, a much higher lever of mitigation in karst areas will have to be observed for this project and other future projects throughout Virginia karst regions.

History of the VAR Part II

by Mary Sue Socky

Way back in 1979 the Region published a book documenting the history of the Virginia Region. A few years ago Tom Spina volunteered to gather material for another book documenting the more recent history of the organizations that make up the Virginia Region, and a lot of material was sent to him. Unfortunately, other commitments forced Tom to transfer the project to me.

However, history has been preserved! The original text, photos, and slides that were sent to Tom have been converted and stored on CD. Also, welcome Lauren Rexford, who has generously agreed to help edit the text into book form.

We are still missing a few "grotto histories". If your grotto has been slow in getting stuff in, now would be a good time to submit your grotto's legends and accomplishments from 1970's - 1990.

One more important thing. If you loaned pictures and or slides to Tom Spina for the "History"; and if you have moved in the past ten years, please get in contact with me! I have the slides, etc. and will be returning them to their owners, but I need to have a current address to send your priceless memories to. I can be reached at:

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Competition Among Conservancies and Cavers for Caves ??? Not!

By Kim Metzgar

I was somewhat surprised to see some speculation in the last issue of the *Region Record* about cave conservancies and competition:

"Looking ahead with something to think about," the person [*Craig Hindman in his Chairman's column, Ed.*] wrote, "There are more and more Conservancies competing to purchase caves, and asking for funding and at the same time there are caver friendly people competing with these conservancies to purchase the same caves, and there are cavers competing with the above to purchase the same property. Anyone of which would protect the resource, while maintaining access. This may be one time when competition may not be good for all concerned. I understand the need to play the

cards close to one's vest while negotiating with the seller. But is this good, in the long run, for all of the above, when it's time to fund these purchases?"

It's an interesting bit of speculation, written by someone who may be familiar with a few conservancies, and I write this response not to criticize the commentator (because if he feels that way then other cavers may also), but to educate and inform cavers about my experiences with a cave conservancy. In 1997 we formed the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, and we did this with much help and advice from our friends at the Southeast Cave Conservancy. I could name names, but I'm afraid I'll miss someone, as we talked with many members of the board and all were helpful. In fact, our bylaws were based on the SCCi's bylaws, and one kind soul even e-mailed them to us so we wouldn't have to retype anything. They really helped us get off the ground. Taking that initial example and support, we've tried to be as helpful as we can to other cavers as well as to other cave conservancies, and have noted many, many instances of conservancies helping conservancies. After all, we all have the same goal: to save and protect caves while allowing caver access. So, I compiled a short list, based only on the MAKC's experiences and on my limited observations, of how conservancies and cavers interact:

MAKC and SCCi

- As noted above, the MAKC bylaws were based on the SCCi's.
- The MAKC owns a spot at the SCCi's Kenamer Cave Preserve.
- Several MAKC board members and former board members, as well as MAKC members, also belong to SCCi.
- Several SCCi members and board members belong to MAKC and

have spots at our Billy Clay Cave Preserve.

- SCCi helped the MAKC spread the word about our van raffle a few years ago.

MAKC and the Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC)

- The organizations exchange newsletters.
- IKC helped the MAKC spread the word about our van raffle a few years ago.
- IKC board member provided some advice about a potential MAKC project and was kind enough to mail us copies of some pertinent information.

MAKC and WVCC

- Many members and board members from both organizations belong to both groups. I am a charter WVCC member.
- MAKC members have on several occasions talked about West Virginia caves for sale with WVCC board members.
- MAKC members have supported WVCC duck races and bat flights and other endeavors.
- WVCC members have supported MAKC via raffle ticket purchases and sponsorship of spots in our Billy Clay Cave Preserve.
- Tom Metzgar, a specialist in courthouse research, who is a board member of MAKC, provided research on a Randolph County, WV cave to several WVCC members for a cave the WVCC had considered taking action on.

WVCC and SCCi

- WVCC conducted an extensive cleanup of the Lobelia Saltpeter Cave property, which is owned by the SCCi. WVCC also assists in management of the preserve.
- MAKC and Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC)

- PCC has sponsored a spot in MAKC's Hall Cave Preserve.
- PCC board members George and Karen Bange invited the MAKC to hold our June 2001 open house on their Rupert Cave property.
- MAKC held a raffle of a back set of Nittany Grotto News at the MAR meet hosted by Nittany Grotto a few years ago, and split the proceeds with the PCC.
- MAKC has, on request of some PCC members, sold PCC t-shirts at our booth at OTR and convention.
- MAKC has and will continue to help promote the PCC calendar fund raiser.
- MAKC has offered to assist a PCC board member with a project he might undertake with the PCC, if he thinks our help is needed. MAKC will not interfere with a PCC project, but will only help if requested.

MAKC and cavers

- MAKC is the first conservancy that I know of to keep a database of cavers who want to buy caves, and the counties they wish to purchase a cave in. With our real estate contacts, and financial constraints, it is not always possible to buy every cave we research, or that cavers suggest we buy. Aside from that, if a caver or cave-friendly person buys the cave that means MAKC does not have to raise the money, develop a management plan and manage the property. It's a win-win situation. (To get put on the list e-mail kimmakc@aol.com).
- MAKC researched the owners who were selling Peiper Cave (Pa.), found it was way out of our price range, and were delighted that cavers Ed and Kim Kehs purchased the cave. They weren't on our list, and we didn't have anything to do with their purchase, but we were thrilled about it. Ed and Kim let us try out our graffiti-scrubbing pressure wash-

er on their cave at the spring MAR meet.

- Many cavers belong to more than one conservancy and financially support more than one conservancy project. We at the MAKC have never told any caver on which project to spend his or her money -- we think they're all pretty significant. We're just grateful for those who choose to help us.
- During our Billy Clay Pit Preserve negotiations, which took over a year, any caver could have stepped in at any time to bid on our property. It was an understood part of our talks that the owner could sell it at any time. Again, like the Peiper Cave purchase, we would have been delighted to have had a caver purchase the cave -- and we'd be out of debt!

MAKC, Grottos and Regions

- MAKC has a hands-off policy as far as messing with caves managed by local cavers or grottos. If we are interested in a cave in a particular area, we make contact with the local cavers. If we're told our help isn't needed or wanted, and it's being managed well as it is, that's all it takes -- we move on to another project.
- MAKC is currently working with the Ohio Valley Region (OVR) and the Ohio Cavers and Climbers Club on a cave cleanup in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.
- MAKC has received support from many, many grottos, including nearly every one in Pennsylvania, grottos in New York, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and Delaware, as well as the NSS and The Robertson Association. These grottos and organizations also support other cave conservancies, as they should.

Hopefully this sets to rest some caver concerns about competition among conservancies.

Trout Rock *Conser-Vacation* coming on Sept. 22

by Bob Hoke

The 7th annual *Conser-Vacation* will be held at the NSS-owned John Guilday Cave Preserve in Pendleton County, West Virginia on Saturday, September 22.

Trout, New Trout, and Hamilton Caves are in surprisingly good shape considering that they are some of the most heavily used wild caves in the State. However, all visitors leave marks of their passing, and the Cave Preserve Committee has scheduled a work day to tidy things up a bit. There will be both in-cave and surface work (with the weather determining the amount of surface work that actually gets done).

Major activities will include reverse painting (graffiti removal); homo-detritus gathering (trash pickup) in the caves, along the trail, and along the road; neo-archeological investigations (more trash pickup); directional guidance support (fence repairs along the trail); and assorted other stimulating and challenging activities. No special skills are required and no backbreaking tasks are planned. The organizers promise perfect weather.

Conser-Vacation is suitable for cavers of all experience levels, including novices. There will be at least one graffiti removal trip to the rear reaches of Trout cave and novices are welcome to experience the subtle beauty of Trout Cave on this trip. There may also be a trip in Hamilton if there are enough people (and graffiti) to justify it. New Trout Cave will probably escape the touch of the cleaning crews (perhaps out of respect for its great intrinsic beauty).

Activities will commence at 10 AM. Novices who need equipment

(helmets and lamps) should contact Bob Hoke at (301)725-5877 or bobhoke@erols.com to make sure that adequate equipment is available. Contact Dave West for additional *Conser-Vacation* information at (410)366-5038.

Mammoth Cavers Coming to DC

Authors/explorers Roger Brucker and Jim Borden are coming to DC to discuss their book "Beyond Mammoth Cave: A Tale of Obsession in the World's Longest Cave." This is the true story of the explorations and politics that led to the Mammoth-Roppel connection. In it, the authors predict that Mammoth Cave will eventually reach 1,000 miles in length!

On Friday, Aug. 24, Brucker and Borden will appear on the Diane Rehm Show on NPR from 11:00 a.m.-noon. In DC, listen on WAMU-FM (88.5). In Baltimore, it's on WJHU-FM (88.1). Call in with questions and comments at 800-433-8850.

Friday, Aug. 24, 6:00 p.m., they'll appear at Barnes & Noble, 555 12th St. NW, in Washington, DC.

On Saturday afternoon, Aug. 25, they'll sign books at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. As of this writing, the time hasn't been nailed down. Call the museum for details at 202-357-2700, or check www.rogerbrucker.com.

Job Vacancy: VAR Mailing List Administrator

For many years Evelyn Bradshaw has diligently maintained the database used to mail the *Region Record*. Evelyn may be moving out of the area soon and someone is needed to replace her as the VAR's database administrator. If you are even remotely interested in assuming this important responsibility please contact Evelyn to discuss the job. You can reach her at (540)898-9288 or ebradshw@staffnet.com.

Next *Region Record* Deadline is Decem- ber 15

The deadline for submitting material for the Winter issue of the *Region Record* is December 15, 2001. Please send any material that is of regional interest to the address on page 2.

Minutes of the Spring VAR Region Meet

May 6, 2001
Cumberland Gap, TN

Due to the lack of a forum, no business was conducted. The committee reports follow.

9:05 - the unofficial meeting was started

Reports

Secretary - Carol Tiderman

Treasurer - John Fox
A financial report was presented.

Vice Chair - Judy Fisher
No report.

Chairman - Craig Hindman
Discussed letter received regarding Hellhole

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder
50 people turned out for the Grand Caverns Restoration. Approximately 70 formations were repaired.

Bowden Cave -
Winter -
Summer -

Island Ford Cave -
Winter -
Summer -

DNR funds are available for sink hole cleanup. The Nature Conservancy administers the funds. Dyers Cave is to be cleaned

No plans for the Sinkhole from Hell.

Baltimore & Sligo Grottos have replaced the Gate at Silers Cave

The NSS has Conservation Grant funds available - contact Al Kraus

Goodwin's Cave

Open for spring. The cave is healing and life is returning. Scouts have requested access.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus
No report.

Landowner Recognition Awards-
Don Anderson
The Combs - Dryer Cave - were nominated by Tri-State Grotto. The Door's - Scott Hollow Cave - were nominated by Baltimore Grotto

VAR Outstanding Service Award
- Tom Spina - no report

Landowner Legal Support Committee - Bob Hoke - no report

Region Record - Bob Hoke - needs material

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning
- no report

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie - no report

VAR Web site - Vitus Eiduevicius
The site up and running. Approximately 4K visits a month.

Cave Bucks - Judy Fisher
Tri-State has passed the \$2,000 mark

VSS - Phil Lucas - no report

WVASS - George Dasher

A. Number of known caves in West Virginia at present: about 3800.

B. Planned Monographs:

1. Kenny Simmons Cave:
Tom Pollock
2. Carpenters-Swago Cave
System: Mark Johnson (maybe)
3. Pendleton County history:
John Taylor (maybe)

C. Planned Bulletins:

1. Pendleton County: George Dasher

- a. Still need maps, pictures, text descriptions, etc.
2. Culverson Creek Cave: Phil Lucas and Bill Balfour
a. Still working on the map, etc.
- D. The overall data coordinator, to whom each cave should be reported:
1. Bill Balfour: 987 Doecreek Road, Pembroke, Virginia 24186: 540-626-5453
bal4karst@email.msn.com
 2. Include text descriptions, geological descriptions, pictures, locations, maps, etc.
- E. Area Coordinators:
1. Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral, and Morgan Counties: J.C. Fisher at 304-258-4974 or
jcf@access.mountain.net
 2. Culverson Creek Cave Basin. Phil Lucas at 540-396-3584 or
vss1@aol.com or Bill Balfour at 540-626-5453 or
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 3. Grant County: John Ganter at 505-265-5007 or
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.at 703-536-7804 or
penczer@hotmail.com
 5. Mercer County: Nick Schaer at 304-369-1749 or
scc0552@wvnet.edu
 6. McClung-Ludingtons Cave System: Joseph Caldwell at 804-848-4182
 7. Monroe County: Jeff Bray at 304-292-8756 or
jbray31706@aol.com (Does not include the Scott Hollow area)
 8. Pendleton County: George Dasher at 304-965-1361 or
wvcaver@juno.com

- a. Germany Valley: Gordon Brace at 703-288-3889 or
braces@iop.com.
9. Organ Cave: Ray Cole at 703-960-3559 or k6gaa@arri.net
 10. Renick Peninsula: Cliff Lindsay at 304-497-3636 or
cliffclindsay@hotmail.com
 11. Saltpeter: Ray Garton at 304-366-1810 or gar-
ton@mammoth.geo.com
 12. Tucker County: Doug Moore at 304-592-2610 or
doug@karstsports.com
 13. Invertebrates: Ray Garton at 304-366-1810 or gar-
ton@mammoth.geo.com

F. What's going on where in West Virginia:

Cassell Cave Survey Weekend: Second weekend of every other month: contact Miles Drake at 304-350-6422: experienced surveyors only

Germany Valley Karst Survey; Second weekend of each month; contact Gordon Brace at 703-288-3889 or braces@iop.com.

Mercer County Weekend; Last weekend of each month; contact Nick Schaer at 304-369-1749 or scc0552@wvnet.edu

Monroe County Weekend: First Weekend of each month: contact Jeff Bray at 304-292-8756 or jbray31706@aol.com: call or email ahead of time as this date is sometimes changed

Taylor Run (Randolph County) Weekend; First weekend of each month; contact Devin Kouts at 703-288-0166.

WVACS Project Weekend: Second weekend of each month: contact Lonnie Burns at 304-497-2234 or omb00811@mail.wvnet.edu

Tucker County Weekend; Third weekend of each month; contact

Doug Moore at 304-592-2610 or doug@karstsports.com.

History of the Region - Mary Sue Sockey
Report at home. Vitas may have an editor

West Virginia Cave Conservancy
Lightner Cave entrance has been purchased - open - permit is required to exit via McClungs

Power Lines - Will Orndorff
No report

New Dixie
Approximately 5 more trips are needed to finish - plan to complete this year.

Host Grotto Report
Pine Mountain reported 112 people attended, 116 registered 70 went on field trips. 10 trips were led 5 were self guided.

Old Business

Host for Fall 01 - RASS
Will be held the weekend on September 28'th at the Field Station

Host for Spring 02 - WVCC - possibly at Natural Chimney's the last weekend in April

New Business

John Pearson - Greenbrier County - requested membership in VAR for Bubble Cave Ltd. To be voted on at next official meeting

Host needed for Fall 2002

Grant Requests
MAKC was not acted on. MAKC has a power washer available to VAR through a MAKC member

Meeting was closed at 9:57

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Tideman

FALL 2001 VAR MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, September 30, 2001 9:00 AM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. DELEGATE REGISTRATION
- III. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA
- IV. CALL FOR INDEPENDENTS
- V. OFFICERS REPORTS:
 - A. SECRETARY - CAROL TIDERMAN
 - 1. Motion to accept Spring 00 minutes
 - 2. Other
 - B. TREASURER - JOHN FOX
 - 1. Current Financial Report
 - 2. Other
 - C. VICE-CHAIR - JUDY FISHER
 - D. CHAIRMAN - CRAIG HINDMAN
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. CONSERVATION CHAIR _ ANDY REEDER
 - 1. Report on activities
 - 2. Call for volunteers:
 - Bowden Cave -
 - Fall_____
 - Spring_____
 - Island Ford Cave -
 - Fall_____
 - Spring_____
 - 3. Other
 - B. GOODWIN'S CAVE MANAGEMENT - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
 - C. STAUNTON CAVE - TED ANDRUS
 - D. LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD - DON ANDERSON
 - E. VAR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - TOM SPINA
 - F. LANDOWNER LEGAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE - BOB HOKE
 - G. *THE REGION RECORD* - BOB HOKE, PAULINE APLING, BARRY CHUTE
 - H. PATCH COMMITTEE - KAREN KASTNING
 - I. VAR LIST SERVER - WALT PIRIE
 - J. WEB PAGE - VITUS EIDUKEVICIUS
 - K. CAVE BUCKS - J.C. FISHER
 - L. VSS - PHIL LUCAS
 - M. WVASS - GEORGE DASHER
 - N. HISTORY OF THE REGION - TOM SPINA, MARY SUE SOCKY
 - O. WVCC - DAVE COWAN
 - P. POWER LINES - WILL ORNDORFF
 - Q. NEW DIXIE - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
 - R. OTHER
- VII. HOST GROTTO REPORT - RASS
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE SPRING 02 MEETING - WVCC
 - B. Other

- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 02 MEETING
 - B. HOST GROTTO FOR SPRING 03 MEETING
 - C. MEMBERSHIP REQUEST FROM BUBBLE CAVE LTD.
 - D. OTHER_____
- XI. GRANT REQUESTS - SUBMITTED TO CHAIR
 - A. MAKC - BILLY CLAY PIT
- XII. ELECTIONS
 - CHAIRMAN _____
 - VICE- CHAIRMAN_____
 - TREASURER _____
 - SECRETARY _____
- XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT



2001 Fall VAR

Hosted by the Richmond Area Speleological Society

You are most cordially invited to attend the 2001 Fall VAR hosted by the Richmond Area Speleological Society.

Dates: September 28 – 30, 2001 starting at noon on Friday.

Location: The RASS Field Station in Bath County, VA (see attached directions). The property consists of 26 acres of meadow and wooded hillside (camping space is plentiful). Since its acquisition, members of the RICHMOND AREA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY have established vehicular paths, renovated the storage shed, converted the dwelling into a functional bunk house, erected four outhouses and built the bath house and pavilion.

Cost: A pre-registration fee of \$18.00 per registrant (\$23.00 at VAR / children age 5 and under are free) will cover the cost of the VAR Guidebook and the Saturday evening meal of our world renowned Brunswick Stew.

Please pre-register by filling out the form and returning it no later than September 8th, 2001. Registrations may be sent to:

**2001 Fall VAR
c/o Rich Geisler
11501 Greenwood Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23059**

We hope you take the opportunity to visit some of the fine caves of our area and come enjoy your stay with us at the 2001 Fall VAR.

**For further information please see our website at:
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/rass/>**

Directions to the RASS Field Station

The RASS Field Station is located in Bath County, Virginia, on State Route 629, 1/4 mile east of State Route 678 between Millboro Springs, Williamsville, and Deerfield. On a 2000-01 Virginia "Official State Transportation" Map, it is located in the I-3 box. In the DeLorme Virginia Atlas & Gazetteer, it is on page 65, block D-5. The bunk house is shown on the USGS Green Valley, VA quad at approx. N38°04.666', W79°35.868', at the end of the unimproved dirt road. The directions below will get you from just about anywhere in VAR to the entrance gate of the property. **IMPORTANT!!! Our driveway is, err ... rural, to say the least....it's a one-laner.** Be courteous AND cautious! You are NOT alone! Camper trailers and RV's are welcome. However, be forewarned, there are no hook-ups.

1) From points North of Staunton, VA:

Interstate 81 to Exit 225, Route 275 (Woodrow Wilson Parkway). Follow Rt. 275 West to Route 250. Turn right onto to Rt. 250 West. Follow Rt. 250 West to West Augusta, about 16 miles. At West Augusta, turn left onto Route 629 (Deerfield Road). There is a gas station/market on the corner. Follow Rt. 629 for 22 1/2 miles, through Deerfield, then past Hunters Paradise to the entrance of the Field Station on the left. Turn left through the cattle gate into the dirt road entrance. If you get to Rt. 678, you've gone 1/4 mile too far.

1a) From points East of Staunton, VA:

Interstate 64 West to Interstate 81 North (2 exits) and follow directions in 1), above.

2) From points West (way north of I-64):

Rt. 250 East to McDowell, Va. Turn right in McDowell onto Route 678. Follow Rt. 678 through Williamsville. You will break out into Green Valley. After approximately 23 miles (from Rt. 250), turn left onto Rt. 629 (Deerfield Rd.). Cross the bridge, the entrance is on the right, through a cattle gate, and onto the dirt road.

3) From points West (south of Route 250):

Interstate 64 to Exit 29 (Rt. 42). Take Rt. 42 North to Millboro. Turn left at Millboro onto Route 39. Follow Rt. 39 West approximately 1/2 mile to Rt. 678 (Indian Draft Road). Turn right onto Rt. 678, follow it approximately 7 miles to Rt. 629 ON THE RIGHT. (Rt. 629 intersects Rt. 678 from the left about 1 mile from where it cuts off to the right - you want to turn RIGHT onto Rt. 629). Cross the bridge, the entrance is through a cattle gate on the right, about 1/4 mile from the intersection of Rt. 678.

4) From points South:

From Lexington, Va, take Rt. 39 North to Millboro. Approximately 1/2 mile past Millboro, turn right onto Rt. 678 (Indian Draft Road). Follow Rt. 678 approximately 7 miles to Rt. 629 ON THE RIGHT. (Rt. 629 intersects Rt. 678 from the left about 1 mile from where it cuts off to the right - you want to turn RIGHT onto Rt. 629). Cross the bridge, the entrance is through a cattle gate on the right, about 1/4 mile from the intersection of Rt. 678.

OR: Take any route you wish up to I-64, then to Exit 29 (Rt. 42). Follow the directions in 3), above.

IF YOU WIND UP COMPLETELY LOST, FIND A PHONE AND CALL US AT THE FIELD STATION. THE PHONE NUMBER THERE IS 540-996-4188.

2001 Fall VAR Pre-Registration

Primary Registrant _____ NSS# _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ e-mail _____

Phone () _____ Grotto affiliation _____

Secondary Registrants (from same household)

Name _____ NSS# _____

Name _____ NSS# _____

Name _____ NSS# _____

Name _____ NSS# _____

Saturday Evening Meal Will Be Furnished!

** Vegetarian meal for primary or secondary registrants - Number needed _____

Number of registrants _____ X \$18.00 = \$ _____

Children age 5 and under _____ X FREE = \$ 0.00

Pets (Leashed and Controlled at all times - NO EXOTIC PETS) _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____

Total number of Registrants _____ Amount Due = \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **RASS** and return with this form by September 8th, 2001 to:

2001 Fall VAR
c/o Rich Geisler
11501 Greenwood Rd
Glen Allen, VA 23059

For further information please see our website at:
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/rass/>

National Speleological Society
6304 Kaybro St.
Laurel, MD 20707-2621

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Annapolis Jct, MD
Permit #2530

Address Service Requested

Fall 2001 Regional News

If you want to continue receiving the *Region Record*, please read this . . .

Individuals may receive the *Region Record*, the newsletter of the Virginia Region of the NSS, either by regularly attending Spring or Fall VAR (regional meetings) and paying registration fees; or through subscription. Subscriptions are \$3.00 per year and may be prepaid for up to three years. Checks should be made payable to VAR and sent to the circulation manager. You do not have to be an NSS member to receive the *Record*.

Complementary copies are sent to grottos in the Region and to other groups with which the Region exchanges newsletters. In addition, newcomers to the Region will receive one or two complementary copies.

Please copy or send this entire page. The address label contains information we need to expedite processing. Thanks.

____ I want to continue receiving the *Region Record*. Enclosed, to maintain my subscription, are dues in the amount of:
(please circle one) \$3.00 for one year \$6.00 for two years \$9.00 for three years

Name _____ NSS Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP (+4) _____

Grotto (or other caving organization that I claim as my primary caving affiliation) _____

Note: Anyone who recently attended a VAR or mailed a membership check to Evelyn Bradshaw but the expiral date is not reflected on the mailing label should check with her about their membership status before making a new payment at this time. Some labels slipped through without that information.

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to:
Evelyn Bradshaw, 10826 Leavells Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1261