



The Region Record

Vol. XVI No. 2 Spring 2003

New Virginia Cave Preserve Established!

by Bob Handley, CCV Chairman,
and Phil Lucas, Board Member

The Cave Conservancy of the Virginias (CCV) is pleased to announce the purchase of property that contains entrances to Omega, Franklin Pit, and Parson Caves in Wise County Virginia. The Powell Mountain Karst Preserve (PMKP) is the beginning of a new era in CCV's goals. It is anticipated that future Land Trusts will be established as opportunity allows.

These three caves of PMKP are listed on Virginia's Significant Cave List.

Parsons Cave was documented as a saltpeter cave. It is a large sloping passage that extends downward from a walk-in entrance, reaching over 80 feet in width and ending in a flowstone choke 1400 feet from the entrance. Parsons is a significant biological ecosystem having amphipods, isopods, spiders, millipedes, and diplurans.

Franklin Pit is located about 150 feet from Parson's entrance and is an impressive 20 feet by 60 feet vertical opening 35 feet deep on the shallow side. A recent investigation revealed six saltpeter casts/vats in the cave, adding to the list of Virginia's saltpeter caves. Strong air currents are present in the cave, hinting of future discoveries.

The crown jewel on the property is the Omega Cave System, presently mapped to 16.4 miles. Omega currently stands as Virginia's second longest reported cave. With

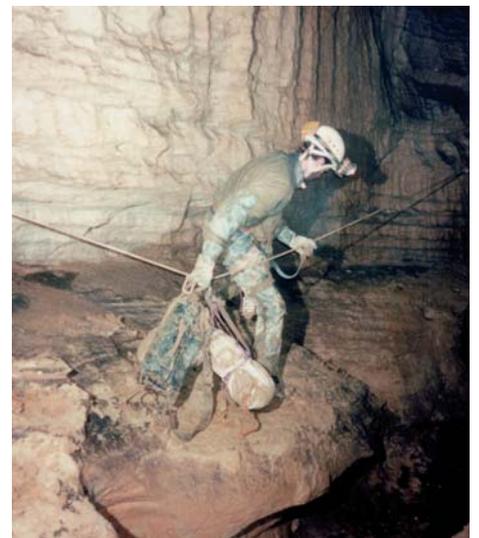
a surveyed depth of 1,263 feet, Omega is the deepest cave east of the Mississippi, and the fourth deepest cave in the continental United States. This cave holds vast potential; most survey trips return with more leads than they start with. Omega is a tough, rugged cave that requires all visitors to be vertically competent and experienced. It will be an exciting cave for those able and willing to endure the long survey trips as well as for those just eager to follow the actions through trip reports and programs. This cave is already significant in many categories. We feel confident that as more discoveries are made and scientific investigations commence in the depths of the system, the cave's true significance will grow internationally. Enough is already known to rate Omega as a world class cave.

The PMKP is developing a management plan that will accommodate those interested in visiting the caves of the preserve. The mission of the PMKP is to protect the caves and karst of the preserve and to provide long-term access to the caves and karst for the purposes of exploration, scientific research, and recreation.

Donations (tax exempt) to help defray the debt are needed and will be greatly appreciated. Please send your donation (checks made payable to CCV) to CCV Omega Fund, c/o Phil Lucas, HCR 3 Box 104, Burnsville, VA 24487.



Bill Balfour drops a 130-foot pit in Omega Cave. Photo by Phil Lucas.



Mike Ficco negotiates a traverse line. Photo by Phil Lucas.

The *Region Record*

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 editor@varegion.org)**. Electronic submissions (e-mail or disk) are encouraged, but any form of input is welcome. Non-copyrighted material contained in the *Region Record* may be reprinted by organizations that are affiliated with the VAR or the NSS, provided that proper credit is given to the *Record* and the author. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, the VAR, the NSS, or their internal organizations.

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Region Record Subscriptions

- New NSS members in the Region receive two complimentary copies of the *Region Record*.
- Current NSS members moving into the Region from elsewhere receive two complimentary copies. Current NSS members who move within the Region get no freebies.
- When a subscription is going to expire the last issue will be stamped "Time to Renew." No renewal notice is sent.
- When a person attends a VAR meeting he/she is automatically added to the list to receive the next four issues. If he/she is already on the list, four additional issues are added to the subscription.
- When multiple people live at the same address only one copy of each issue will be sent to the address unless a box requesting individual issues is checked on the VAR registration form or a request is sent to the Circulation Manager.

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Regional Calendar

- Apr. 18-20 **Annual Grand Caverns cleanup.** Help maintain this interesting commercial cave. Free food & camping. See flier in this issue for more info
- May 9-11, 2003 **Spring VAR meeting** at the Old Timers site near Elkins, WV. Hosted by DC Grotto and PSC. See article & flier in this issue
- June 15 deadline for submitting material for the Summer issue of *The Region Record*.
- Aug. 4-8, 2003 **2003 NSS Convention** in Porterville, CA.
- Fall, 2003 **Fall VAR meeting.** Date and location not determined as of press time.

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.

Chairman's Column

I would like to take some time and spotlight the BATS Grotto for the time and effort they put forth in taking on the conservation project of building and erecting a bat friendly gate at Grand Caverns in Grottos Virginia. VAR was asked to take on the project at the VAR field meet in October. They indicated their interest after the meeting, and the gate was installed in December. Thanks to BATS for undertaking this project on behalf of the VAR.

I would also like to invite all of the VAR to come and help out at the Grand Caverns cleanup and formation restoration at Fountain Cave on April 19. Contact Andy Reeder about this annual project.

There is also the possibility of working with the Forest Service to install two barriers at the collapse area in Bowden Cave. More information to come in the months ahead.

The next VAR meet will be held at the OTR site and will be hosted by the DC Grotto & PSC. The event will feature a cleanup at Sharps Cave. Craig Stihler, the State Mammal Biologist with the WV Department of Natural Resources, will be the guest speaker on Saturday evening. Come find out about the latest happenings with the bats and caves in West Virginia.

Come on down, visit with old friends, go caving, get involved with projects, or buy new gear from the vendors.

See you there!

Craig

VAR Landowner Award Presented to Dr. Webb of Giant Caverns

by Don Anderson

On a cold, but beautiful, December 7, 2002, a group of VAR cavers from the New River Valley Grotto and the VPI Cave Club gathered at the home of Dr. Webb, the owner of Giant Caverns in Narrows, Virginia. Dr. Webb was nominated for the VAR Landowner Recognition Award at the Fall 2002 VAR meeting. Along with the plaque and certificate, Dr. Webb was presented a framed picture taken inside the cave by Craig Ferguson. After the presentation the cold, but enthusiastic, group enjoyed snacks, drinks, and a look at the entrances. A hardy bunch from the Tech club explored the cave later.



Dr. Wood (on the left) receiving the VAR Landowner Recognition Award from Don Anderson in December, 2002.

The VAR Landowner Recognition Award

by Bob Hoke

The VAR Landowner Recognition Award is given to those cave owners who have done an exceptional job of balancing the

protection of their cave with allowing responsible access to their cave by the caving community. It is a way for the caving community to express its appreciation to those special folks.

The list below shows the Award recipients to date, but there are certainly lots more deserving landowners in the Region. If you know of a landowner who is deserving of the award, write a brief letter explaining why and send it to Don Anderson, P.O. Box 966, Dublin, VA 24084.

LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1992 Buddy Penley
(Penleys, access to Newberry's, VA)
- 1993 Rhoda Paxton
(Paxtons Cave, VA)
- 1993 Ruth Propst
(Sinnett/Thorn Mountain, WV)
- 1994 George & Lee Sively
(Organ Cave, WV)
- 1994 Robert E. Bright
(Simmons Mingo Cave, WV)
- 1994 Gene Turner
(Buckeye Creek Cave, WV)
- 1995 Charles E. Simmons
(Porters Cave, VA)
- 1995 Mothes Family
(Friars Hole Cave System, WV)
- 1995 John Knutti
(Bowden Cave, WV)
- 1995 Pricilla Teter
(Mystic Cave, WV)
- 1996 Bill, Mildred, & Judy Showalter
(Cave Hollow Arbogast Sys., WV)
- 1996 Dr. & Mrs. J. T. Rogers
(Norman Cave, WV)
- 1997 Connie Houseman
(Dixie Caverns, VA)
- 1997 Mrs. Clark
(Clarks Cave, VA)
- 1997 Geraldine Freeman
(McClungs Cave, WV)
- 1998 Cecil Porterfield
(Pig Hole Cave, VA)
- 1998 Kent Ford
(Witheros Cave, VA)
- 1998 Joe Lockridge

(Breathing Cave, VA)

1998 Bob Brooks
(Crossroads Cave, VA)1998 Ted Monger
(Jones Quarry Cave, WV)1998 Andy Graham
(Grahams Cave, VA)1999 Barry Price
(Starnes Caverns, VA)1999 Richard & Frances Latterell
(Molars Cave, WV)2000 The Ferrell Family
(James Cave, et al, VA)2001 The Combs family
(Dyers Cave, WV)2001 Mike & Pat Dore
(Scott Hollow Cave, VA)2001 Dave Mallow
(Mill Run Cave, WV)2001 Robert Wylly
(Silers Cave, WV)2002 Dr. Webb
(Giant Caverns, VA)

History of VAR, Part II

by Meredith Hall Johnson

The FINAL deadline for inclusion of your grotto history in the History of VAR, Part II (1971-2000) is Spring VAR weekend (May 10-12, 2003). E-mail your material to Meredith Hall Johnson (mercaver@wildmail.com) and Mary Sue Socky (sockymss@cox.net); snail mail to MHJ, 8061 Kittiwake CT, Springfield, VA 22153; or bring to VAR. Remember, if you do not submit anything, your grotto will be left out and that would be a shame. See VAR Web site for an online submission form and more details.

A Grotto's Responsibility

By Meredith Hall Johnson

I was in Trout Cave the other day. In the entrance was a group about to tour the cave. One of the two youngest boys had a Mag light as his sole light source and a helmet with no chinstrap. The other boy's chinstrap was fairly loose. I didn't even notice his light source. Neither had packs and the man with them was planning to leave his pack on a rock. The second boy started to jump and run around while he waited for the rest of the group.

I could contain myself no longer. I told the boy that it is dangerous to jump in a cave. I learned this only a couple of years ago. One of the grottos I belong to, BATS, requires anyone going on a grotto cave trip to first attend a Cave Orientation. I had been caving for 22 years and they made me go! And even though I sat there with a "what can they teach me?" attitude, I did learn one very important, and very basic, thing: Don't jump in caves. I saw the simple truth and was surprised that no one had ever told me. But I digress, sort of.

Back to the eight-year-olds. I said something to the man and the first boy about the importance of a chinstrap and how his helmet would do him no good if it fell down a hole. The man reluctantly took his chinstrap off of his helmet and put it on his son's. Dad still had a couple of old shoestrings hanging on his; besides, I wasn't too worried about his head. I don't think he really appreciated my meddling. Too bad.

As I approached the trip leader, a guy I had met last year in an Orientation to Cave Rescue class, no less, I told him I was disappointed in him and that he should know better. I think he's the head of his grotto too. He really should have known better.

I am not going to name names. I hope one of that grotto's members recognizes this incident and passes this article/editorial around. I hope they begin to realize the importance of teaching caving safety to our members and anyone we take underground. Little things that most of us take for granted, like having a minimum of three sources of light, may not be self-evident to a novice. It is our responsibility to teach safe caving techniques. It is also the grotto's responsibility. As the leader of an NSS-sanctioned grotto, my friend should never have taken those kids into a cave that day.

As cavers, when we see ill-prepared groups such as this one, it is up to us to speak up. If the grotto won't teach responsible caving, we experienced cavers must step in. If we don't, we may be called upon to step in on a cave rescue.

[*Editor's note: The rules for using the Trout Rock caves were printed in the Fall 2002 issue of The Region Record*]

Spring VAR Meeting Coming in May

by Bob Hoke

The flier in this issue describes the Spring VAR meeting that will be held at the OTR site in Dailey, West Virginia on May 9-11.

Most Region Record readers are familiar with the Region meetings so there is not a lot that needs to be said to those folks. However, a significant number of readers are new to caving, new to the area, or have not attended a VAR Meeting for some reason.

If you have not attended a VAR meeting you really should consider doing so. In addition to seeing some new caves and stocking up on gear from the speleo-vendors, it is a

great way to meet other cavers and find out what is going on.

Sure, the newsletters and the Internet provide lots of information about new discoveries, conservation and survey projects, etc. However, if you are interested in getting involved in these activities instead of just rereading about them, the VAR meetings are a great way to find out what is happening, meet the people who are active in the projects, and start getting involved.

Whatever your reason, you should definitely put the Spring VAR meeting on your caving calendar. It will be well worth your effort.

VAR Mailing List

Don't miss another issue! Don't wait for the USPS to return your incorrectly addressed Region Record... E-mail your address changes to Meredith Hall Johnson at mercaver@wildmail.com.

Region Record Material Needed

Wanted, dead or alive: your article for the *Region Record*. There is a LOT of good stuff going on the Virginia Region and we would like to let the over 500 Region Record subscribers know what is happening. There are a lot of good articles about projects of regional interest in the grotto publications, but the Region Record editors don't always see them.

If you write an article (or if you see one) that is of general interest to other VAR cavers, please send it on to the *Region Record*. We will give you full credit as the finder and (of

course) we will credit the original publication if appropriate.

The deadline for the Summer issue of the *Region Record* is June 15.

Minutes of the Fall VAR Region Meet

September 29, 2002
Endless Caverns, VA

Meeting was called to order at 9:05

Reports

Secretary - Carol Tideman

A motion was made by BATS to accept the minutes as published in the *Region Record*. Sligo Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer - John Fox

A financial report was presented. DC Grotto moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Blue Ridge seconded. Motion passed.

Vice Chair - Judy Fisher

No report.

Chairman - Craig Hindman

No report.

Conservation Chair - Andy Reeder

Bowden Cave -

Cleanup is temporarily suspended.

Island Ford Cave -

Spring & Fall - New River

The draft of the Island Ford Management Plan is complete.

New River Trail - The plan is written.

Conservation Report form is available - need feedback. Will advertise on the VAR site

Goodwins Cave Management - Blue Ridge The cave is doing fine. The bat population has not increased.

Staunton Cave - Ted Andrus

No report.

VAR Outstanding Service Award

- - Meredith Hall Johnson presented to Miles Drake, Fred Grady and Phil Lucas. Write-ups need to accompany nominations.

Landowner Recognition Awards - Don Anderson

There were two nominations. Dr. Webb Giles County Giant Cave. Upper Valley Regional Park Authority - Grand Caverns.

Landowner Legal Support

Committee - Bob Hoke

No news.

Region Record - Bob Hoke

Deadline Dec. 15th - need material.

Patch Committee - Ernst Kastning

No report.

VAR List Server - Walt Pirie

There has been a surge of sign-ups. Approx. 200 members. The site has a virus filter. Has a spam filter but some does get through.

VAR Web site - Jim McConkey

Jim McConkey has taken over maintaining the site. VPI moves to expresses appreciation to Vitas for setting up and maintaining the web site and event page. Sligo seconded. Motion passed. The site is being redesigned and updated. If something is not working please report it to Jim. Please check your grotto contact information. Will include Regional events page and Surveys.

Cave Bucks - J. C. Fisher

Is alive and well - Tri-State pushing \$3K.

VSS - Phil Lucas

4,056 caves in Virginia. 447 miles increase of 18 miles in 118 caves 71 new maps. The primary function of the VSS is data collection. The *Virginia Cellars* is back on schedule. Contact at VACAVES.org

WVASS - Jeff Bray

Report finds. There are over 3,900 West Virginia caves.

History of the Region - Mary Sue Socky & Meredith Hall Johnson Getting a lot of material. WVCS offered access to material. Questionnaires are available from the Web site.

West Virginia Cave Conservancy - Bob Handley

Almost into Maxwelton - there is a lot of breakdown and airflow Persinger Cave in litigation. Bone Cave - promised - in litigation - others close - to be announced. Cheat Canyon to be transferred to state - want to maintain status quo - letter writing campaign may be needed Notify if some caves are available. Will accept Va. caves.

New Dixie - Blue Ridge Grotto On hold. One more trip should finish the survey.

VA Karst Program - Joey Fagan Very busy - There is a project to define Conservation Site Boundaries around Virginia's Significant Caves. BATS moves VAR support the nomination of these 5 caves for protected status and continued support - Starr Chapel Saltpetre, Kelly, Rocky Hollow, Shires Saltpetre, Millers Cave. VPI seconded - motion passed VPI moves to communicate the information on support. Bubble Cave LLC seconded - motion passed.

SCCI - Walt Pirie

Wolf River Cave preserve - 8 miles of cave - was bought at auction- There was support from the Nature Conservancy and BCI.

CCV- Bob Handley

A meeting will follow this meeting/ CCV & the NSS met with representatives from Grand Caverns. - Dave Leatherwood. They toured the property. There is a need to build a grate to cover over the original entrance. It needs to be bat-friendly. BATS may adopt this as a project. VAR will incorporate this as a part of the spring project. CCV will fund the gate (15 x 10) The cave could close due to lack of funding. The need operating funding. The stone building is for sale. This is the oldest continually operating commercial cave in the US. BATS will get exact dimensions for the gate.

Host Grotto Report

345 registered - 161 pre registered 180-200 went caving New River moved to thank BATS & FROG. VPI seconded - motion passed.

Old Business

Host for Spring 03 - DC & PSC May 10-12 at the OTR site.

Host for Fall 03 - Front Royal - location to be announced.

Host for Spring 04 - Tri-State - location to be announced.

New Business

Host Grotto for the Fall 04 Meeting - no volunteers.

Great X

VPI moves The VAR supports the concept that the NSS acquires

Great X Cave. Bubble Cave LLC seconded - motion passed.

Caving Safely

Brochures are available.

Pigeon Mountain

Flowing Stone a 224 foot pit - a letter writing campaign in place - this is an election issue - to limit a quarry permit & preserve the cave.

Grant Requests

None

Elections

Bubble Cave LLC moved to reelect the current slate of officers. VPI seconded - unanimous.

Announcements

James Cave - letters went out to scouts & church groups- visitation down. New problem - Hickman Cemetery is dumping excess dirt in the sinkhole.

Cave week material is available- 6 minute spot on National Geographic Television.

Return name tags.

Jim Hixson is in nursing home - visit if you can. Briar Nursing Home in Lewisburg WV.

BATS moved to adjourn. Bubble Cave LLC seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:52.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Tideman

SPRING 2003 VAR MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, May 11, 2003 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 Fall 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:
 - Island Ford Cave -
Summer _____
Winter _____
 - 3. Island Ford Management Plan
 - 4. New River Trail
 - 5. Conservation Report Form
 - 6. Other
 - B. GOODWIN'S CAVE MANAGEMENT - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
 - C. STAUNTON CAVE - TED ANDRUS
 - D. VAR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - MEREDITH HALL JOHNSON
 - E. LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD - DON ANDERSON
 - F. LANDOWNER LEGAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE - BOB HOKE
 - G. *REGION RECORD* - BOB HOKE, PAULINE APLING, BARRY CHUTE
 - H. PATCH COMMITTEE - KAREN KASTNING
 - I. VAR LIST SERVER - WALT PIRIE
 - J. WEB PAGE - JIM MCCONKEY
 - K. CAVE BUCKS - J.C. FISHER
 - L. VSS - PHIL LUCAS
 - M. WVASS - GEORGE DASHER
 - N. HISTORY OF THE REGION - MEREDITH HALL JOHNSON, MARY SUE SOCKY
 - O. WVCC - ED SWEPSON
 - P. NEW DIXIE - BLUE RIDGE GROTTO
 - Q. VA KARST PROGRAM - JOEY FAGAN
 - R. SCCI - WALT PIRIE
 - S. CCV
 - T. OTHER
- VII. HOST GROTTO REPORT - DCG & PSC
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 03 MEETING - FRONT ROYAL
 - B. HOST GROTTO FOR THE SPRING 04 MEETING - TRI-STATE
 - C. Other

- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. HOST GROTTO FOR THE FALL 04 MEETING
 - B. VAR MEETING FINANCIAL REPORTS
 - C. OTHER _____
- X. GRANT REQUESTS - SUBMITTED TO CHAIR
- XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chocolate & beer can only mean one thing....



The VIRGINIA REGION
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Presents the

Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp

April 18th-20th, 2003



Chocolate & Beer? Are you crazy?

Spend a fun-filled weekend of frolic amid some of the most historic karst deposits in the Virginia's. Enjoy a CAVING EASTER and join us for our annual gravel hauling express through beautiful Grand Caverns (and our equally exciting sinus plugging, epoxy FILLED escapades in NEARBY Fountain Cave!). Repair broken formations. Eradicate moss. Improve cave-owner relations. EAT great food and find PRIZES. A great way to kick those Old Man Winter Blues (and it beats making license plates)!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andy Reeder, VAR Conservation Chair
840 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA. 23942
(w) 434-847-1640 OR (h) 434-392-7452

or

andrew.reeder@lynchburgva.gov

Directions:

Primitive camping will be allowed at Grand Caverns on Friday and Saturday. A short orientation will begin at 9:00, on Saturday (April 19th) morning at the picnic shelter next to the caverns parking lot (look for the VAR banner) prior to beginning conservation activities. Bring standard caving gear, work clothes, and gloves. Saturday lunch and dinner will be provided (along with copious amounts of your favorite beverage). On Sunday morning cavers can participate in an "Easter-Cave" hunt with assorted chocolate goodies and caver prizes.

Grand Caverns: From I-81, Exit 235 East to Grottoes. Turn right at small store/gas station (past ball fields). Follow signs and take right into Caverns.



SPRING 2003

VAR MEETING

at the Old Timers Campground, Dailey, West Virginia

May 9-11, 2003

The DC Grotto and Potomac Speleological Club invite you to the Spring 2003 meeting of the Virginia Region of the NSS. The event will be held at the site of the annual Old Timers Reunion near Dailey, WV, on May 9-11, 2003. There will be caving, dinner, a program, a party, and generally a good time in relaxed atmosphere.

Why Attend? If you are new to caving, or you have never attended a VAR meeting, this is a great way to meet other cavers, see some new caves, check out the vendors, and see what is happening in the Region.

Camping & Facilities: The Old Timers Reunion site hosts 2,000 cavers for OTR each year so there is plenty of room for camping. There are hot showers, city water, and portable toilets. Unfortunately, it will be too early in the season to have the sauna & hot tubs operational. There are no electric or sewer hookups. No pets are allowed on the site.

Special Cleanup Trip: The conservation project at this VAR will be to clean Sharps Cave, a 4-mile cave located about an hour's drive south of the campground. Participants will also have the opportunity to tour the cave while helping to clean it. Lunch will be served to workers outside the cave.

Cave Trips: There will be several led trips to caves relatively close to the campground. Most of these trips are suitable for novices and all will return in time for dinner. There will be signup sheets at registration. There will also be a guidebook describing the area's caves and driving directions to them for those who wish to go caving on their own.

Saturday Dinner: Dinner on Saturday will be catered by Koonie's Road Kill Grill. The menu for carnivores will be slow-cooked beef BBQ, but there will also be a vegetarian option.

Saturday Evening Program: After dinner on Saturday there will be a presentation by Craig Stihler on bats in West Virginia. Craig works for the WV Dept. of Natural Resources and is an expert on the bats in the state.

Vendors: We expect to have several speleo-vendors and this will be a good opportunity to purchase cave related items.

Directions: The campground is located off US 219 about 10 miles south of Elkins, WV. If you are coming from the north go south on US 219 for about 8.5 miles after the stoplight at US 33 on the south side of Elkins. Turn left after the huge Bruce Hardwood factory onto Back Road 38. The campground is on the right in about a mile. From the south go about 8 miles north of Mill Creek and turn right on Back Road 38 after you pass through the hamlet of Dailey.

VAR Business Meeting: The VAR business meeting will be at 9 AM on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

More Info: Check the latest VAR information at www.psc-cavers.org/springvar2003.html. If you have any questions please contact Bob Hoke at (301)725-5877 or bobhoke@erols.com.

✂-----

Spring 2003 VAR Meeting Preregistration Form (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Name you want on name tag: _____

Vegetarian meal? _____ Number of people @\$15.00 per person: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Preregistration cost is \$15 per person (on-site registration is \$18). Sorry, no discount for kids. Send this form, and a check payable to "DC Grotto," to Spring VAR, c/o Bob Gulden, 1333 Chapelview Dr., Odenton, MD 21113. Preregistration payment must be received by **May 3, 2003**. If you want to register multiple people please include their names on the back of this form.

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

Address Service Requested

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

Spring 2003 Regional News

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

If this page is marked "TIME TO RENEW" it means that your *Region Record* subscription has run out and this is the last issue you will receive. Subscriptions are automatically extended when you attend a Spring or Fall VAR meeting, or you can subscribe to the *Region Record*. The last issue you will receive (Volume-Number) is indicated on the top line of your mailing label. More detailed information about subscriptions is listed in the box on page 2.

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Name _____ NSS Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to:
Meredith Hall Johnson, 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153