



The Region Record

Vol. XXII No. 1 Winter 2008-09

Chairman's Column

I hope everyone had a wonderful end to the year and is making plans for the new year.

The Conservation Co-hairs are planning some upcoming events. The Easter Restoration Weekend at Grand Caverns will include erecting bat houses in addition to the usual projects. There is a sinkhole cleanup in the planning stages, so keep in touch and plan to come out and lend a hand.

If your grotto has a project, let the *Region Record* editors know and maybe we can get you a better turn out. It is also a great place to report on how your project turned out and thank those who helped. Send along some pictures too.

The next NSS Convention is incorporated with the International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas, in July. It will be longer than the usual Convention, nine days, so make your plans to attend. It will be a wonderful opportunity for those of us who do not get to go caving in foreign countries to get a taste of caving throughout the world.

There are many county surveys going on and all need help. You don't know how to survey? Not a problem, they are willing to teach you.

Tri-State Grotto is hosting the Spring VAR. We are still looking for host groups for upcoming VARs. Talk it over, read the information on hosting a VAR on the Web site, it can be a great way

to raise funds for your grotto's projects. It is not required that a grotto be the host; groups of cavers or other organizations have hosted the VAR events in the past.

If you know a landowner who you feel deserves to be recognized by the VAR, submit the name. There is an easy-to-use form on the VAR Web site (www.VARregion.org). If you know someone who has done a lot for the Region over the years, submit their name too, with a synopsis of their achievements. There is a form on the Web for this too.

Hope to see many of you in the new year.

Craig

Spring 2009 VAR Meeting April 24–26

By Bernie Wootten

Spring VAR 2009 promises to be a good one. The meeting is being hosted by the Tri-State Grotto and will be held at Grand Caverns Regional Park in Grottoes, Virginia, on April 24–26, 2009.

There will be ample camping space available, with hot showers and plenty of bathrooms. Several children's activities have been

planned including a children's movie on Friday night (most likely *Journey to the Center of the Earth* shown in 3D with glasses provided), kids play/learning cave, playground at the park and children's caving trips. There are also several exciting events planned for the adults including a Friday night caving movie, at least one (and possibly several) squeeze box(es) and a slide show presentation on Saturday night. As always free beer and soda, and a DJ will be provided on Saturday night. However, since beer is prohibited in the park it must be kept discrete. Several vendors have been invited as well.

There are several led caving trips in the works for both Friday and Saturday including: Porters, Butler, Breathing, Fountain, Glade, Sites, Marshalls and Kenny Simmons. We will have sign ups available Friday as soon as registration opens with additional spaces posted Friday evening for late-comers. A guidebook will be provided.

A catered meal will be provided on Saturday night with a planned menu of BBQ chicken, whole chickens cooked in four different spices, pulled-pork sandwiches, hot wings, green beans with small potatoes, rolls, baked potatoes with butter and sour cream, cake, lemonade, and ice tea. There will also be a vegetarian option available by pre-registration only at no additional charge. A Sunday morning pancake breakfast will also be available for

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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

Mar. 12-14, 2009 **Third National Cave & Karst Conservancies Forum** in Lewisburg, W. Va.
 Contact John Pearson at jpearson@rcc.com for more info.

Grotto. See article and flyer in this issue.

Jul. 19-26 **NSS Convention and the 15th International Congress of Speleology** in Kerrville, Texas.

Mar. 15 Deadline for submitting material for the Spring issue of the *Region Record*.

Mar. 24 **Deadline for getting the preregistration discount** for the Spring VAR meeting at Grand Caverns, Virginia.

Apr. 10-12 **20th Annual Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp.** See article & flyer in this issue.

Apr. 24-26 Spring **VAR meeting** at Grand Caverns, Grottoes, Virginia. Hosted by Tri-State

List Your Event Here

If you have a caving event that is of regional interest please send information to the Editors listed above so it can be included in the calendar.

Spring VAR

(Continued from page 1)

an additional \$4 but is limited so be sure to include it on your pre-registration form.

For more information visit the Tri-State Grotto Web site at <http://wobey.net/TSG/tristate/>, then click on the VAR09 link on the left-hand side.

Pighole Cave Fence

By Don Anderson and Joe Zokaites

During the month of October, 2008, Joe Zokaites and I talked about cavers putting in a new fence around the vertical entrance of Pighole Cave in Giles County, Virginia. The back entrance had recently been enhanced by the VPI Cave Club. The existing fence around the vertical entrance consisted of rusted barbed wire attached to trees at the very edge of the pit and was missing in many places. It offered little protection for cattle and people.

The cave is enjoyed by area cavers and the owner, Cecil Porterfield, has allowed access over many years. He had mentioned a number of times that a new fence was needed around the pit.

Joe and I met with Mr. Porterfield several times to discuss plans and get his input and approval. After finalizing the plans with his approval, work dates of November 8th and 15th were scheduled. Emails were sent announcing the project and soliciting donations and workers. The original cost estimate was between \$1,000 and \$1,200.

Prior to the workday of Saturday the 8th, we discovered a promised piece of major equipment would not be available. We also found

out the soil was extremely dry, hard, and shallow. Seems there was limestone underneath! On Thursday, November 6th, Eddie Lane (New River Valley Grotto), saved the day by drilling holes for the major corner posts using his track skidder. On the 8th, 31 cavers arrived for work.

What a super good job this crew accomplished! All the posts were placed which required a great deal of manual labor. Many of the posts had to be concreted in. The edge of the sink was cleared of brush, stickers, and several dead trees about to fall into the pit. Around noon Carol Zokaites signaled lunch, and we chowed down on hot dogs, slaw, chips, cookies, and sodas. Work continued through the afternoon until nothing more could be done before the cement hardened so we decided to call it a day.

On Saturday, November 15th, we picked up fencing and the associated materials from the Newport Hardware Store, where they allowed us a hold account so that we didn't have to pay each

time we picked up material. Fortunately, the store was only a few miles away as several extra trips were made for more stuff.

In spite of heavy rain early on, the fencing crew of 22 cavers managed to stretch and place 400+ feet of woven wire, a top strand of barbed wire, and placed a 12-foot cattle gate. Carol Zokaites again announced lunch and the hungry folks enjoyed sandwiches plus. After lunch, tree branches hanging over the new fence were cut down. All scrap and leftover materials were cleaned up inside and outside the new fence, thus putting the field back in pasture condition.

Mr. Porterfield was impressed with the work crews on both days and he was very appreciative of the new fence and gate. The final cost was \$1,725.54. This was great landowner relations. The following organizations donated money and/or workers: Cave Conservancy of the Virginias, VPI Cave Club, James River Grotto, Blue Ridge Grotto, and New River Valley Grotto.



(L to R) Don Anderson, Cecil Porterfield (landowner), and Joe Zokaites stand in front of the new gate and fence protecting Pighole Cave in Giles County, Virginia. The new fence includes over 400 feet of woven wire. Photo by Ray Sira.

Caving Close to Home

by Jim McConkey

Grand Caverns, Germany Valley, Highland County—caving projects abound in the region with tales (some exaggerated, some not) of nasty digs, tight crawls, 300-foot drops, and massive boreholes. While plenty of Region cavers regularly travel 6–8–10–12 hours to get to their favorite project, a few of us overwhelmed by work and other responsibilities, or just plain tired of driving, have found projects a little closer to home to occupy our precious spare time. Projects basically in our own backyards! The two most recent projects that come to mind are Ed Devine's Caves of (Washington) D.C. project, and my Caves of Eastern Maryland project. There is basically no limestone east of Frederick, Maryland, so caving in this area is no mean feat. Schist and granite are the primary rocks around here, and most of the caves seem to be formed by weathering of tight local folds in the rock, usually on the edge of a river, with nice rounded roofs.

I have long known of caves in Howard and Baltimore Counties

from *Caves of Maryland*, but never got around to finding any of them. One day at the Grand Caverns survey project, Carol Tiderman mentioned seeing a local newspaper article on a cave in Columbia, Maryland, that was once used to hide slaves on the Underground Railroad (UGRR). My interest piqued, I turned to Google and before long determined that the cave lies on a known UGRR route, just a mile or so from Carol's house. She and Craig Hindman and I met there one night last fall and we found it in a few minutes. The cave is only five feet off the road and we won't mention that Carol drove past it for years going to and from work without ever noticing the four- by eight-foot entrance.

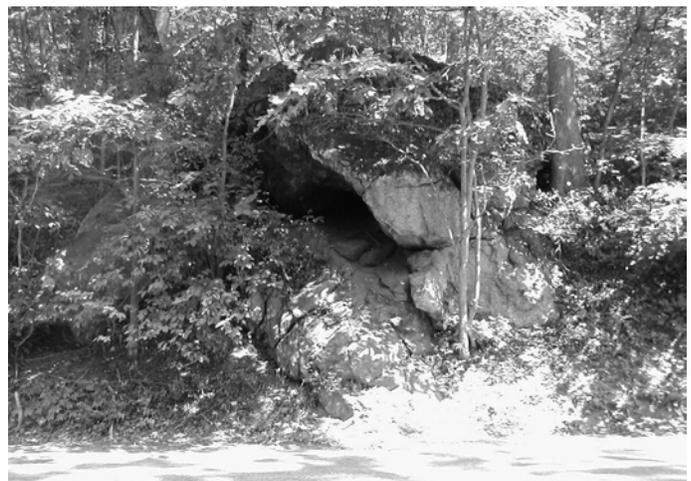
We surveyed a whopping 35 feet, with most of the cave being 6-foot wide and 3–4 feet in height. Craig was convinced that another 50 feet of passage lay beyond the constriction at the end, so a grotto dig trip was hastily organized and a month later 14 intrepid cavers and a few "supervisors" showed up. We hit bedrock only about an inch down, effectively ending the dig, but we were able to verify the historical claim that nine slaves once hid in the cave. The cavers complained that even though they

were 20 minutes from home they still spent more time driving than caving! This cave was previously unknown to cavers and is not listed in *Caves of Maryland*. Only one other cave is known in Howard County, so we just doubled the known number of caves. After pulling an 1882 reference off Google Books, I led a grotto geology field trip to the other known cave in Howard County and we were able to determine that one of the rock shelters listed in *Caves of Maryland* was actually the same as the only cave listed. The Maryland Archeological Society has stated in its newsletter that they know of at least a dozen rock shelters in the Patapsco valley, but they are even more secretive than cavers and will not share their data. I guess we will just have to find them ourselves.

Turning my attention to Baltimore County, I quickly found one of two known caves near the Loch Raven dam. I was able to find the other with the assistance of turn-by-turn instructions from a 1961 issue of the *Baltimore Grotto News*. The article describes the 20-foot-long cave as "utterly worthless" and only described where it was because it is a beautiful site for a picnic. The authors also mentioned having found two other caves "in



Dave West and John Rollhauser surveying in Mammoth Shelter, a 20-foot-long cave in Baltimore County, Maryland. Photo by Jim McConkey.



The entrance to Indian Cave in Howard County, Maryland. The entrance is about eight feet wide, but unfortunately the cave ends after 35 feet. Photo by Jim McConkey.

the area" that they couldn't bother to elaborate on. Using a clue from a geocaching Web site, I was able to locate the caves, over a mile from the first cave. A recent Baltimore Grotto geology field trip surveyed both caves and located yet another. The largest of the caves was almost 60 feet long, high enough for Karen Willmes to stand up in, and had a small waterfall at the back. It was also home (at the time) to a geocaching "travelbug" mammoth, so the cave is now known as the Mammoth Shelter because of its immense size and its occupant. The smaller caves were about 20 feet each. Baltimore County has now gone from two caves to five, and we know of a few more, with many more presumed to be awaiting our discovery unless we succeed at infiltrating the archeology society. Unlike our secretive cousins, all the caves we have explored and mapped locally are being published in the *Baltimore Grotto News*.

Caves can be found in the strangest of places, and it seems to be a whole lot easier to get a bunch of cavers to drive 20 minutes instead of eight hours. Too much interest has been aroused, and there is now pressure to put out the third edition of *Caves of Maryland*. Let us know what you find in your backyard, and document it for posterity.

VAR Limited Access Cave List

Check the access status of VAR caves on-line at

www.VAR-caves.us

It's Not Too Early...

By Meredith Hall Weberg

...to think about conservation!

The annual Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Weekend will be April 11–12, 2009. We will arrive and set up camp on Friday night (April 10) and get up bright and early, ready to haul gravel, clean algae, clear mud off the steps at Fountain, whatever needs to be done to help one of the Virginia Region's favorite caves. If you don't camp, meet at the main pavilion by 9:00 on Saturday morning.

The VAR Conservation Committee will provide lunch and dinner, usually a feast cooked by wonderful volunteers onsite. The dinner alone is worth all the sweat and effort during the day.

If you have never done one of these weekends, this is a great way to see one of the best decorated commercial caves in the state in a totally different way.

Contact me (merecaver@yahoo.com) or Andy Reeder (cavecon@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.

(See flyer in this issue for more information)

Virginia Cave Week

By Meredith Hall Weberg

Virginia Cave Week will be April 19–25, 2009, once again in conjunction with Earth Day. The focus of next year's Cave Week will be on Virginia's watersheds, especially in karst regions.

A Web site with lots of links for educators and the general public is located at <http://www.vacaveweek.com/>. Cavers might even find links to Web sites on karst and caves that

they haven't seen before.

Virginia Cave Week is the Virginia Cave Board's annual effort to educate the public and students about karst and caves and promote and protect our region's resources. Make an effort to visit a commercial cave during Cave Week and let the owners/managers know that you are celebrating Virginia Cave Week!

WVCC Purchases Entrance to Maxwelton Sink Cave

by Bob Hoke

The West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) has purchased five acres of land that includes the only usable entrance to Maxwelton Sink Cave in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. This significant cave was dug open in the 1970s and about 10 miles were mapped before the entrance was sealed by a hurricane. After several false starts and a major digging effort, a new entrance was opened in 2003.

The Conservancy had leased the new Scott Entrance since it was dug open, but during the summer of 2008 the group that owned the land wanted to sell it. The Conservancy was offered five acres that includes the entrance for \$48,000. The price was high, but the property is near the Greenbrier County Airport and is rapidly developing so the offering price was accepted.

The deed to the property also includes underground access rights (but not mineral rights) under several other adjoining parcels.

More than \$7,000 was raised during the Old Timers Reunion, and about \$4,000 has been donated by individuals and organizations since then. The actual purchase was completed in October.

The Conservancy did not have sufficient funds to complete the purchase so a \$15,000 interest-bearing loan was obtained from a caver and \$23,000 was borrowed from the Conservancy's Endowment Fund. Both of the loans need to be repaid and the Conservancy has initiated a major fund-raising campaign to do so.

The Conservancy intends to keep the cave open to vertically competent non-commercial cavers with certain restrictions. The complete management plan and access policies will soon be posted on the Conservancy's Web site, www.wvcc.net.

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to WVCC to help repay the loans can send a check (payable to WVCC) to Bob Hoke, WVCC Treasurer, 6304 Kaybro St., Laurel MD 20707.

Fall VAR 2008 Report

By Susan Burr

Both Blue Ridge Grotto and James River Grotto co-hosted the 2008 Fall VAR. This event took place at the Covington, Virginia, Moose Lodge, on September 19–21, 2008. We couldn't have ordered better weather or a better turnout. We had a final total of 276 people attending, which judging from past Fall VAR numbers, this wasn't bad at all!

It was a huge success because BRG and JRG members came through

and did their part. Registration ran very smoothly, cave trips seemed to get off without a hitch, and we had a lot of led cave trips offered. Dinner was excellent and we didn't run out of food; each night we had an awesome campfire, the DJ (John Fox) was great, and the Saturday night speaker (Phil Lucas) was fabulous. We had two vendors attend, both Inner Mountain Outfitters (IMO) and Speleobooks. We also had plenty of wine, beer, and soft drinks for Saturday night. The campground and facilities were great as well, other than the train running next to it about four times per night.

Even the people who didn't go caving had a good time. Since I had to stay on the grounds while the majority of you were caving, I saw people fishing and swimming/playing in the creek. Several people went hiking in different areas and some went antiquing. Overall, I think we had something for everyone ... even the kids had fun. After caving they came back and had a really nice playground to play on.

I think the koozies were a really nice touch to our VAR and many people let me know they appreciated them. We did run out, however, since we had ordered only 250. We also had a lot of very nice door prizes, with our grand prize being a 100-foot-long rope donated by IMO.

Not being involved in planning a VAR before, I asked several grotto members about hosting one. Basically, their response was that it is too much work. Wanting to host one anyway, my grotto agreed that if I did all the planning and legwork, they would help out where needed. Also, Pat Sims offered to help me in any way that he could. Talking with James River Grotto members, they said they didn't have enough members to host a VAR themselves. It was then that they offered to co-host this one with us.

The first thing Pat and I had to do was find a location. It had to be large enough to hold at least 200 people, be close enough to multiple caves, and had to be affordable. We also looked for a place that had electricity on the premises and a pavilion. Bathrooms were a bonus. We were hoping for showers, but that part didn't pan out. It took us approximately four months to find a campsite. Once we did, everything else fell into place.

I contacted many cavers from other grottos who have hosted previous VARs, seeking advice on what to do and how things are done. I wish to thank all of you who helped me out. We also listened to comments people made about previous VARs, to see what we needed to try to change or do. One of the biggest complaints we had heard concerned the cave trips ... too many people were being allowed on cave trips and no one was ever sure where you were suppose to meet. We had strict cave trip limits. This was due in part to cave owner or trip leader restrictions. This allowed the cavers on the trip the opportunity to see more of the cave. The bigger the group, the slower the trip; therefore, you cannot see as much of the cave as you would like in the time allowed. We offered as many trips as we could find cave trip leaders. I think we did a good job, offering a variety of 15 horizontal and vertical cave trips. We also had signs posted designating the meeting place for each cave trip.

The hardest thing was estimating attendance. Using past Fall VAR numbers we came up with an estimate, and ordered things accordingly. Since we wanted to keep costs down, we decided to offer a with-or-without meal option. This is where pre-registration was really needed. We had approximately 57percent pre-register. Since the campground was so close to town, we were not as concerned about people not being able to buy a dinner if we ran out

... which we did. After pre-registration ended, we still encouraged people to register ahead of time if they wanted a dinner. This helped out a lot.

Buying beer, wine and soft drinks was a challenge. How much, what kind, do you get a keg or buy cans? Because we wanted to offer a variety, we opted for buying cans, plus they can be recycled. We bought too much, however. The trend is leaning toward people bringing their own beer or liquor or not drinking as much. We had bought 19 cases, which didn't seem unreasonable for the number of people we had, but we had at least 2 1/2 - 3 cases leftover. We did provide 1 case of bottled water that was all taken. Of the nine 12-packs of soft drinks bought, we had at least two 12-packs leftover. The extra beer and soft drinks were distributed amongst the grotto members who stayed and helped clean up afterwards.

All of our planning and hard work paid off. Even with the unexpected \$600 in extra charges for dinner, we still made a very nice profit of \$1,681.49. It wasn't worth arguing

over the dinner charges when everything else was great. We paid such a small amount for the campgrounds and facilities, and they allowed us to use both of the kitchens next to the pavilion as well. The Moose Lodge also provided the ice for icing the drinks for free.

Overall I consider this VAR very successful, and I am thrilled I was part of it. Thank you to all who helped and thank you to all who attended.

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 Janet Tinkham, 360 Kings Dr., Fort Valley, VA 22652 or e-mail it to her at janete@shentel.net.

LANDOWNER RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1992 Buddy Penley
(Penleys, access to Newberry, VA)
- 1993 Rhoda Paxton
(Paxtons Cave, VA)
- 1993 Ruth Propst
(Sinnett/Thorn Mountain, WV)
- 1994 George and Lee Sively
(Organ Cave, WV)
- 1994 Robert E. Bright
(Simmons-Mingo Cave, WV)
- 1994 Gene Turner
(Buckeye Creek Cave, WV)

FALL VAR 2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME:

Pre-registered adults with meal	(\$27.00 X 92)	\$2,484.00
Pre-registered adults w/o meal	(\$17.00 X 55)	935.00
Pre-registered 5-15 with meal	(\$23.00 X 7)	161.00
Pre-registered 5-15 w/o meal	(\$13.00 X 1)	13.00
Pre-registered 0-4	(free X 3)	0.00
On-site adults with meal	(\$30.00 X 45)	1,350.00
On-site adults w/o meal	(\$20.00 X 56)	1,120.00
On-site 5-15 with meal	(\$26.00 X 1)	26.00
On-site 5-15 w/o meal	(\$16.00 X 8)	128.00
On-site 0-4	(free X 4)	0.00
Special circumstance prices	(4)	46.00
On-site VAR fee only	(\$3.00 X 3)	9.00
Total Income		\$6,272.00

EXPENSES:

Campground rental (Includes use of pavilion, kitchens, permanent bathrooms, trash removal, & ice)	\$200.00
Dinners	2,578.00
Portable potties (6)	315.00
Koozies (250 ct.)	155.00
Name tag holders	52.00
Guidebook (250 ct.) & registration form printing	75.61
Soft drinks (9- 12 packs)	36.45
Beer (19 cases)	292.17
Wine (2- 5 liter boxes)	34.62
Tickets (double for door prizes)	5.96
VAR fee (\$3 X 255)	765.00
Firewood	0.00
9" X 12" envelopes & markers	18.14
Plastic spoons	1.56
Misc. travel expense	61.00
Total Expenses	\$4,590.51

Event Profit \$1,681.49

- 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 System, WV)
- 1996 Dr. and 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)
- 1997 Cecil Porterfield
(Pig Hole Cave, VA)
- 1997 Andy Graham
(Grahams 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)
- 1999 Barry Price
(Starnes Caverns, VA)
- 1999 Richard and Frances Latterell
(Molars Cave, WV)
- 2000 The Ferrell Family
(James Cave, et al, VA)
- 2001 The Combs family
(Dyers Cave, WV)
- 2001 Mike and Pat Dore
(Scott Hollow Cave, VA)
- 2001 Dave Mallow
(Mill Run Cave, WV)
- 2001 Robert Wyly
(Silers Cave, WV)
- 2002 Dr. Webb
(Giant Caverns, VA)
- 2002 Upper Valley Regional Park Authority
(Grand Caverns, VA)
- 2004 Charles Cassell
(Cassell Cave, WV)
- 2005 John Mooney and Helen

- Baker
(Higgenbotham Cave, WV)
- 2005 Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Links
(Tawneys Cave, VA)
- 2006 Steve Silverberg
(Lost World Caverns, WV)
- 2007 John and Christine Shiflet
(Glade Cave, VA)
- 2007 Mike Newsome
(Links Cave, VA)
- 2008 Mark Burke
(Alpena Cave, WV)

VIRGINIA REGION of the National Speleological Society			
by John Fox, VAR Treasurer			
October 2007 to September 2008 Budget			
INCOME:			
Fall Meeting	603.00	MAR-VAR	
Spring Meeting	540.00	SERA-VAR host Mt. Empire	
Bank Interest	7.12		
Independent Dues	135.00		
Landowner Award	0		
Miscellaneous	75.00	Blue Ridge Grotto donation	
Total Income	\$1,360.12		
EXPENSES:			
Grants	500.00	Cave Board change cave signs	
<i>Region Record</i> Printing	631.79		
Landowner Award	66.57		
VAR Outstanding Service Award	87.46	Bill Biggers, Anne & Bob Whittemore	
Conservation	352.85		
Jr. Speleo. Society of NSS	300.00		
W. Va. Corporation Fee	0.00		
Domain Name	0.00	Renewal due in 2012	
VAR Project	0.00		
Miscellaneous	0.00		
Total Expenses	\$1,938.67		
Separate Balances:			
Landowner Legal Defense Fund	1,246.00		
Grand Cavern Survey Project	1,171.38		
Total Accounts:			
Money Market Check Book	2,584.08		
Working Check Book	895.91		
Certificate of Deposit	1,552.44		
National Speleological Foundation	4,235.00	as of March 31, 2008	
Total Assets	\$9,267.43		

Virginia Region Meeting Locations

by Jim McConkey

The table below lists information about the Virginia Region's Spring and Fall meetings since 1971. If there are any errors please send corrections to Jim McConkey at mcjames@comcast.net.

Date	Location	Host	Date	Location	Host
4/3/71	Blacksburg, VA	VPI Cave Club	10/6/91	Seneca, WV (Yokum's)	Triangle Troglodytes
10/2/71	Rocky Mount, VA	Blue Ridge Grotto	4/26/92	Anthony, WV (Greenbrier Youth Camp)	Tri-State
3/18/72	Charlottesville, VA	UVa Grotto	10/4/92	New Market, VA (Endless Caverns)	Front Royal Grotto
10/7/72	Kingsport, TN	Holston Valley Grotto	5/2/93	White Sulphur Springs, WV	RASS
4/14/73	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	PSC	9/26/93	Huttonsville, WV (Bell's Campground)	Western Maryland Grotto
10/27/73	Bowden, WV	Monongahela Grotto	5/8/94	Radford, VA (Kiwanis Campground)	New River Valley Grotto
4/20/74	Neola, WV	DC Grotto	10/2/94	Glengary, WV (Lazy A Campground)	Tri-State Grotto
10/12/74	Organ Cave, WV	Greenbrier Grotto	5/14/95	Tucker County, WV (Camp Kidd)	Monongahela Grotto
4/12/75	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	RASS	10/1/95	Seneca Rocks, WV (Indian Village Campground)	Tri-State Grotto
10/11/75	Dublin, VA	VPI & New River Grotto	5/19/96	Mt. Solon, VA (Natural Chimneys)	Blue Ridge Grotto
4/3/76	Camp Albermarle, VA	UVa Grotto	10/20/96	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	PSC
10/9/76	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	Germany Valley Grotto	5/27/97	Bath County, VA (RASS field station)	RASS
4/2/77	Abingdon, VA	Mountain Empire and Holston Valley Grottos	10/5/97	Cumberland Gap, VA	Pine Mountain Grotto
10/9/77	Raphine, VA	Shenandoah Valley Grotto	5/3/98	Draper, VA (Horseshoe Campground)	New River Valley Grotto
4/30/78	Anthony, WV	WVCS	9/27/98	Friar's Hole, WV	Baltimore & Sligo Grottos
10/7/78	Mt. Solon, VA (Natural Chimneys)	Tidewater & RASS	5/2/99	Mt. Solon, VA (Natural Chimneys)	Tri-State Grotto
4/7/79	Franklin, WV	PSC	9/26/99	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	Front Royal Grotto
10/6/79	Abingdon, VA	Mountain Empire and Holston Valley Grottoes	5/6/00	New River, VA	VPI Cave Club
4/19/80	Bannerman Farm	Charleston & ESSO Grottos	9/24/00	Maxwellton, VA	WVASS
10/18/80	New Market, VA (Endless Caverns)	DC Grotto	5/6/01	Cumberland Gap, TN	Pine Mountain Grotto
4/25/81	New River Junction Park, VA	VPI Grotto	9/28/01	Bath County, VA (RASS field station)	RASS
10/24/81	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	PSC	4/29/02	Grottoes, VA (Grand Caverns)	WVCC
4/24/82	Abingdon, VA (Riverside Campground)	Mountain Empire and Holston Valley Grottos	9/29/02	New Market, VA (Endless Caverns)	BATS & FROG
10/23/82	Massanutten Caverns	Madison University Student Grotto	5/9/03	Dailey, WV (OTR site)	PSC & DC Grotto
4/30/83	Anthony, WV (Greenbrier Youth Camp)	ESSO & Charleston Grottos	9/26/03	Rural Retreat, VA	Front Royal Grotto
10/9/83	Grottoes, VA (Grand Caverns)	VAR & CCV	4/23/04	Grottoes, VA (Grand Caverns)	Tri-State Grotto
4/29/84	Franklin, WV (Thorn Spring)	DC Grotto & PSC	10/24/04	Tucker County, WV (Camp Kidd)	Monongahela Grotto
10/7/84	Friars Hole, WV	Sligo Grotto	4/29/05	Fairlea, WV (WV State Fair)	Bubble Cave, LLC
5/4/85	Massanutten Caverns	RASS	9/23/05	Bath County, VA (RASS field station)	RASS
10/6/85	Pearisburg, VA (Biological Station)	VPI Grotto	4/28/06	Grottoes, VA (Grand Caverns)	VAR
4/27/86	Bowden, WV (Alpine Shores)	Blue Ridge Grotto	9/22/06	Glen Lyn, VA (Town Park)	VPI Cave Club
10/5/86	Maxwellton, WV (Gene Turner's)	WVCS	4/27/07	Durbin, WV (East Fork Campground)	Front Royal Grotto
5/3/87	Dailey, WV (OTR site)	Assorted. DC area cavers	10/12/07	Dailey, WV (OTR site)	Philadelphia & Triangle Troglodytes
10/25/87	New River Park, VA	New River Valley Grotto	6/5/08	Bristol, VA	Mountain Empire Grotto, with Appalachian Cave Conservancy and Flittermouse Grotto
4/24/88	Alleghany County, VA (Circle H Camp)	RASS	10/19/08	Covington, VA	Blue Ridge & James River Grottos
10/2/88	Glengary, WV (Lazy A Campground)	Tri-State, Frederick, & Sligo			
4/30/89	New Market, VA (Endless Caverns)	Tidewater Grotto			
10/1/89	Natural Bridge, VA	Friends of VSS & WVSS			
5/6/90	Dailey, WV (OTR site)	GROSS Grotto			

**If You Enjoy a Frosty Beverage with Your Chocolate Covered Eggs,
Join Us For The....**



20th Annual Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp, April 10–12, 2009

Hop on down to the 20th Annual GRAND CAVERNS EASTER RESTORATION CAMP, sponsored by the Virginia Region of the National Speleological Society on April 10–12 (Friday – Sunday), 2009. If you enjoy the camaraderie of fellow cavers, join us for our annual gravel hauling express through beautiful Grand Caverns, and our equally exciting conservation escapades in nearby Fountain Cave!. Repair broken formations. Eradicate moss. Improve cave-owner relations and a whole lot more! A great way to kick those Old Man Winter Blues! Primitive camping, socializing with fellow cavers, and food and beverage provided for Saturday lunch and dinner! An Easter egg hunt for the kids on Sunday morning (depending upon number of kids)! And, best of all it's all free (okay, the Easter Pig is accepting donations)! If arriving at night, check the left-hand gate, it is usually left with the hasp in-place so that it appears locked to the uninitiated.

Directions to Grand Caverns:

From I-81, take Exit 235 to SR 256, [turn left if traveling South on I-81, and right if traveling North on I-81, toward Grottoes] Travel East on SR 256 for 7 miles to Grottoes. At the intersection of Dogwood Avenue, turn South [Right] on Dogwood. Travel South on Dogwood Ave. for 1,000 ft. Turn Right into the Entrance of Grand Caverns [Grand Caverns Drive]. Phone (888) 430-2283.

For more information contact VAR Conservation Co-Chairs:

**Andy Reeder, 840 Twin Lakes Rd., Green Bay, VA. 23942,
(W) 434-455-5876/ (H) 434-392-7452 or e-mail at: cavecon@earthlink.net; and**

**Meredith Hall Weberg, 8061 Kittiwake Court, Springfield, VA 22153,
703 451-3637 or e-mail at: merecaver@yahoo.com**

SPRING VAR 2009 REGISTRATIOM FORM

APRIL 24-26, 2009

GRAND CAVERNS REGIONAL PARK

5 GRAND CAVERNS ROAD

GROTTOES, VIRGINIA 24441

HOSTED BY TRI STATE GROTTTO

Name _____

Others you are paying for _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Grotto/Organization _____

Adult (16 + years)	\$33.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
Children (5-15 years)	\$29.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
Children (0-4 years)	Free	x	_____	=	\$ 0.00

Extra Guide Book	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
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of Vegetarian Meals requested (Available on pre-registration only) _____

Sunday Morning Breakfast	\$ 4.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
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T-Shirt	Small	\$12.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
	Medium	\$12.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
	Large	\$12.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
	X-Large	\$12.00	x	_____	=	\$_____
	XX-Large	\$15.00	x	_____	=	\$_____

Total Due = \$_____

Alcohol must be consumed with great discretion as it is not allowed in the park. No bottles or cans can be seen by park manager. Pets must be on a leash and well behaved at all times.

Please remember the continued concern for the spread of WNS, clean all gear before arrival (See Decontamination protocols) and if planning to attend more than one cave bring two sets of clothes

March 24, 2009 is Pre-Registration Deadline

Cost if postmarked after March 24: Add \$3.00 per person

Make checks payable to the Tri State Grotto & Mail with Registration form to:

Bernie Wootten 431 Liberty St., Hagerstown MD, 21740

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

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Winter 2008-09 Regional News

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