Chairman's Column

If you missed the Spring VAR/MAR, all I can say is you missed a good one. Cave trips, vendors, talking with about 300 friends, and a good time was had by all.

We do have a problem. Both VAR and MAR need host groups for future meets. The D.C. and Baltimore Grottos are jointly hosting the Fall VAR/MAR meeting (see the flyer in this issue for details), but host groups are needed for Spring 2011 and beyond. It isn't that hard to plan a meet, and it can be a fund-raiser for your group. So talk it over with each other and let me hear from you.

If no group steps up to host future meets we will have business meetings only, but I hope it doesn't come down to this.

I want to thank all for going along with the restrictions that we have had to do over the last year of caving in the Virginia Region. You have deaconed your gear, you have stayed in the area, you have surveyed the bats, and have reported your observations. Even with all that you have done, WNS is still spreading at the same rate with no slowing of the spread.

What has been learned is that bats are spreading this to other bats.

In theory it is possible to transport spores in dirt from one location to another. This theory has not been proven in cave dirt or on caving gear. The revised policy for Virginia is to come out shortly. There was a meeting held by the Virginia Cave Board in Grottoes, Virginia, with several representatives from VAR, VSS, BCCS, WVASS, and cavers at large.

There has been a draft come out that I can support if there is not too many changes in it.

In summary it says all of Virginia is WNS-positive, with the exceptions of a water shed in the southwest counties of Virginia (Lee and Wise). If you are not caving in that area stay out, and if you are caving there, decon of your gear is mandatory. In the rest of Virginia, it is recommended that you clean your gear. Respect the land owners’ rules. If they allow caving, go caving. If not, go to another cave.

Report your finding. The VAR list of Limited Access Caves (www.VAR-caves.us) will reflect the land owners’ wishes, not the blanket closures.

With all that said, we can debate if we are going to go caving or not, but we need to stop the name calling and the blame game. At the end of the day we still have to work together for the good of caving.

Craig

Richard Bantel
Receives VAR Landowner Recognition Award

by Bob Hoke

Richard (Rick) Bantel was presented with the Virginia Region’s Landowner Recognition Award at a ceremony during the Spring VAR/MAR meeting in Fairlea, West Virginia on May 22, 2010.

Mr. Bantel was presented with the Award in recognition of his long-time support of cavers and the caving community. He is aware of the significance of the many caves in Greenbrier County and has worked to protect them while also allowing caver access. Most recently he donated the Wild Cat Entrance to the Culverson Creek Cave System to the West Virginia Cave Conservancy (see the next article for more information).

Richard J. Bantel Cave Preserve

by Bill Balfour

It is with great pleasure that I announce the newest cave acquisition of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. Rick Bantel has (continued on page 3)
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

Aug. 2-6 NSS Convention in Essex Junction, Vermont.

July 31 Deadline for joining The Robertson Association so you can attend the Old Timers Reunion as a member, not a guest.

Aug. 15 Deadline for submitting material for the Fall issue of the Region Record.

Sep. 2-6 Old Timers Reunion in Dailey, W. Va.
Join about 1,800 other cavers for caving and a very big party. See more info in this issue.

Oct. 1-3 Fall MAR/VAR meeting at the Friars Hole Cave Preserve in Pocahontas County, W. Va.
See more info in this issue.

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.
Wild Cat  
(continued from page 1)

donated approximately an acre of land surrounding the Wild Cat Entrance to the Culverson Creek Cave System. Culverson Creek Cave is one of the premier caves in the country and contains around 20 miles of surveyed passage.

The preserve is located in downtown Unus, a metropolis of about six or seven people. To get there take US 219 north from Lewisburg to Frankford, then take Williamsburg Rd. 4 miles to the junction of Carroll Hill Road in Unus. On the right at the intersection you will see a black fence with a red gate; you may park there or over in front of the red barn on my property. There is a walking easement to the sinkhole property that contains the entrance.

Culverson Creek Cave is the finest water cave of West Virginia, so be prepared to get wet. In the summertime when the water levels are usually low and the water temperature is fairly warm, the main creek can be 70 degrees. Just make sure that you watch the weather because the cave is prone to flash flooding. Logs lodged in the ceiling 50 feet above you attest to the water’s velocity and severity. In the winter, the cave is not as friendly, the water is usually higher and much colder, so plan accordingly, wetsuits are a welcome addition.

There are about five miles of passage in the McLaughlin section of the cave. Going down the pipe entrance leads to a completely different section of the cave. A sloping crawl at the base of the pipe leads to a small room with a body-sized hole going down 12 feet (the Blackball Climb). Downclimbing dumps you into a feeder passage that is walking-sized for about 800 feet. At that point the passage intersects the Overflow Tube.

If you go to the right you head back toward the main Culverson Entrance over a mile away. To the left you can go to the Hairy Place and then to the Logjam and beyond. The majority of the cave is in this direction. If you have pre-rigged the drops in the Fullers section you can do a connection trip in about 15 to 20 hours and come out either the SSS Entrance or the main Fullers Entrance (owned by WVCC Board Member Cliff Lind-say).

So there it is, come see our newest cave. If you been here before come on back; if you’ve never been here, come see it, it’s a pretty neat cave. And oh, by the way, even though the cave was given to us, we did incur expenses to acquire it. Things like a property survey, appraisal, and deed did strain our budget. So any donations are most welcome.

Lee Sively: Lee Sively, age 75, passed away on April 25th at a nursing home in Ronceverte. Lee, together with her husband, George, were the long-time owners of Organ Cave in Greenbrier County. Lee was a member of the Salem Presbyterian Church, the Organ Cave Ruritans, the Organ Cave CEOS, a board member of the Organ Cave Community Center, and a member of the Lewisburg OES. Lee is survived by her caregivers, two sisters, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews.

Recent Tennessee Floods: Cecile James’ home flooded to the ceiling during the recent Nashville floods, but she is okay. Nevertheless, the water took a terrible toll on her business, materials, equipment, transportation, and personal items, and her house may be a total loss. Larry Matthews was also hit hard, with severe damage to his home and belongings. The Nashville Grotto gave each of them a $100 Kroger card and a $500 Visa gift card along with some basic supplies to help with their immediate needs. The grotto has also set up a PayPal page for anyone who wants to make a donation. Please give if you can:

VAR Grand Caverns Survey Project

by Jim McConkey

The VAR Grand Caverns Survey Project keeps going strong, with 20+ cavers showing up every month. We send teams into Grand every month to clean mud-fouled formations and Bill Biggers and his crew diligently continue unplugging an “extension” to Fountain Cave that was started in 1873 and later...
mysteriously filled in. The owner at the time assumed there was another large cavern adjacent to Fountain and was determined to find it. We only hope he was right!

At the request of the Town, the VAR hosted a tourist trip in May into Fountain Cave for Town officials and Cave personnel, led by Jim McConkey. The appearance of the Town lawyer initially had us worried, until he volunteered that he had been a caver “in a former life.” After taking the group in by caver lights, we stopped for the obligatory lights out and Lifesavers at the “back” of the cave. Dispelling the dark by lighting a single candle lantern, Jim explained that the group was now at the original entrance to the cave and described how the original tourists would have seen the cave. Lighting pre-staged candle lanterns, the crowd gazed upon the Fountains, or pool, that give the cave its name, as the original tourists would have seen them.

The group then headed back to the modern entrance under (mostly) only candlepower. The candelight tour was completely unexpected and left the crowd mesmerized. The cave personnel were still talking about the trip when we returned a month later.

Outside the caves, park visitors have had to brave the overflow ditch to get to the central comfort facility since the old footbridge was washed away years ago. The main automobile bridge across the South River as you enter the Park was replaced a couple years back, and thankfully some of the massive timbers were saved. A group of cavers organized to build a new footbridge from the remains of the old automobile bridge, and if they hadn’t just run out of boards for the railings, they would have finished in June.

Although not officially a function of the survey, the annual Grand Caverns Easter Restoration Camp fell on the survey weekend this year, and the usual crowd easily doubled in size. Several tons of gravel for the tourist trail were hauled into Grand while Alex Sproul videoed (Watch the video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGG0JDcXFM or search for “Grand Caverns Restoration”) and a crew of formation repair specialists descended into Fountain Cave. Numerous formations were repaired and a big pile of candidate segments were sorted and ordered by size to make the next formation repair trip easier. Andy Reeder and his crew did their usual fine job of feeding the crew afterward.

Due to Park events the survey has been forced to alter its summer schedule from the usual first weekend timeslot. The project will meet July 10–11 and August 14–15. The September weekend is also usually changed because of OTR, but no alternate date has been picked yet.
2010 Spring VAR/MAR Final Report

by John Pearson

Hosting a VAR is always interesting and hopefully profitable. Two years ago, Bubble decided to try it again. We would do a repeat of our last VAR and give John Pearson a test run for the 2012 NSS Convention that will be held in the same location. WNS was not a factor yet and hopefully the economy would recover before our date.

The largest problem hosting any VAR is trying to guess how many will attend. Pre-registration is always encouraged, but seldom amounts to more than 50 percent of the total. John came up with a new carrot to dangle. He would print a Guidebook to top them all and only print enough for pre-registration. Well, it worked, almost too well. We had 223 pre-register. Now the question was how many would show up not pre-registered. Food is a big cost and caterers want a week notice in advance to order and prep food. We decided to go with 280. Bob’s Big Beef had done at least six previous VARs and we liked working with them. We told him we might go over and could they handle 300 at the last minute? Friday afternoon arrived, with people rolling in and at 3:00 we only had eight non-pre-registered show up. Sweat time, maybe we wouldn’t even get our 280 and lose our ass. Friday evening and into Saturday morning we worried. By the time registration closed Saturday evening, we have gotten to 329 including our special guests. WHEW!!

This is how we did financially:

Income $10,053

Expenses
Fairgrounds 1,000
Guidebooks and Maps 860
Insurance 150
Food 4,373
Beer, soda, water, ice 545
Name tags, mailings, etc. 245
Door prizes 190
VAR dues 795
MAR dues 300
Refunds 60

Total Expenses $8,518
Event Profit $1,535

One thing we were originally afraid of was hosting a VAR with no caving. We worked with Lost World Caverns to have at least some trips. Fortunately, John worked with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to establish a list of caves to avoid due to WNS and the caving community respected that list. John, at his own expense, built three large racks for a WNS Decon station, bought tubs and a 1,500 psi pressure washer. He worked with Jeff Hajenga of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for protocol as well as Barbara Douglas of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Together, they suggested ways to improve the station and try to do the right thing for the bats. John was quite pleased that cavers used the station without being asked or policed and many told the Bubble Cave staff that the decon station was the best they had seen.

We were able to offer 19 led trips and although the sinkhole cleanup had to be cancelled due to wet field conditions, the Island Ford cleanup went quite well, with 14 people making that cave shine. The sinkhole cleanup will be rescheduled.

The evening presentation was an expanded talk on Culverson Creek by Phil Lucas, Bill Royster, and Bill Balfour. It tied in beautifully with the Landowner Appreciation Award that was presented to Rick Bantel prior to the talk and the big announcement. Rick Bantel, the owner of the Wild Cat entrance to Culverson Creek, decided that he wanted the cave conserved in perpetuity. To do that, he donated as much land as was needed around the entrance (0.8 acres) and a surface right-of-way to the West Virginia Cave Conservancy.

One other event occurred that evening. 14 cavers that had been in on much of the original exploration in Greenbrier County in the 1960s, got together for a group photo. A nice reunion of cavers.

Many thanks to all who helped and thanks to all who came.

View of the decontamination station at the Spring VAR. Note the pressure washer to do an initial gear cleaning, tubs for the decontamination solution, and a fence for drying. The station seemed to be well received and got lots of use. (Photo by John Pearson).
Virginia Region Meeting Hosts

by Jim McConkey

The Virginia Region needs hosts for regional meetings. This list shows various caving groups and if and when they have hosted. Some are new groups, some on the list are no longer in existence. If your group has never hosted, or has not hosted in the last 10 years, please give some thought to doing so. RASS, Tri-State, and VPI need a break.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VAR Host Grotto or Group</th>
<th>Dates Hosted</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore and Sligo</td>
<td>1998</td>
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<td>BATS and DINGO</td>
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<td>Blue Ridge</td>
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<td>Charlottesville</td>
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<td>DC Area Cavers</td>
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<td>Eight Rivers</td>
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<td>Germany Valley</td>
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<td>Grapevine</td>
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<td>GROSS</td>
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<td>Madison University Student</td>
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<td>Mid-Virginia Underground</td>
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<td>Monongahela</td>
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<td>Mountain State</td>
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<td>Mountain Empire and Holston Valley</td>
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<td>Mountain Empire, Appalachian Cave Conservancy, and Flittermouse</td>
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<td>Parkersburg Area</td>
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<td>Pine Mountain</td>
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<td>Shenandoah Valley</td>
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Old Timers at the Spring VAR Meeting

This picture of some of the Virginia Region’s senior members was taken Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the Spring VAR meeting held in Fairlea, West Virginia and hosted by Bubble Cave LLC. From left to right are Joey Fagan, Dave Newson, Rocky Ward, Al Stewart, Bill Royster, Bob Thren, Doug Medville, Bill Balfour, Phil Lucas, Bob Handley, Bill Biggers, Rocky Parsons, Roger Baroody, and Bill Jones. (Photo by Carroll Bassett).
VAR Outstanding Service Award Nominations DUE!

by Meredith Hall Weberg

Once again it’s time to nominate your outstanding fellow cavers for this annual VAR award. Take a look at the list of previous winners on the VAR Web site: www.vargion.org/var/awards/serviceawards.shtml. Please send a supporting e-mail to me at merecaver@yahoo.com, including at least a paragraph or three on why this VAR caver deserves this award. Any facts will help, like grotto affiliation and projects. Thanks!

NSS Members Manual Cover Art Wanted

by Meredith Hall Weberg

And once again it’s time to submit cool cave or caver photos to me for possible use on the cover of the 2010 NSS Members Manual. No more than five in one e-mail please and they must have been taken by you. No “bad” caver practices should be shown, like an ungloved hand holding onto a speleothem or not wearing a helmet. Deadline for submissions is August 2, 2010. Take a look at the last few covers and see what kind of photos are winners. YOURS could be the next cover!

VAR Listserv Provides Timely Information

by Bob Hoke

Walt Pirie maintains the VAR listserv. This is a computerized e-mail list that allows any subscriber to easily send e-mail messages to the other subscribers.

The listserv is seeing increasing use as a vehicle for quickly disseminating and/or soliciting information from subscribers throughout the Virginia Region.

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.

If you wish to renew your subscription, please copy or send this entire page. The address label contains information we need to expedite processing. Also, please print legibly. Thanks.

Yes, 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____________________________________________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________________

City___________________________________ State __________  ZIP _______________________________

E-mail_____________________________________________

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

Please make checks payable to VAR and send to: Meredith Hall Weberg, 8061 Kittiwake Ct., Springfield VA 22153
Lower Campground at Friars Hole Cave Preserve, Pocahontas County, West Virginia

The D.C. Grotto and Baltimore Grotto invite you to attend the Fall 2010 joint meeting of the Mid-Appalachian Region (MAR) and the Virginia Region (VAR) of the NSS. The event will be held at the Friars Hole Cave Preserve in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, during the weekend of October 1–3, 2010. There will be caving in the Friars Hole Cave System, the largest cave in the Appalachians, with 45.5 miles of mapped passage. The cave preserve is owned by the Mothes family. Robert Mothes runs the farm and controls access to the Snedegars Salt peter Entrance, North Stream Entrance, Crookshank Pit, and Toothpick Entrance to Friars Hole.

Camping and Facilities: Primitive camping will be in the mowed hayfield between the North Stream Entrance and the Snedegars Salt peter Entrance to the Friars Hole Cave System. Well-behaved, leashed pets are allowed, but their owners must care for them and keep them away from any livestock. Camping is very primitive, so bring all water you may need. Port-a-pots will be on site, but there will be no shower or washing facilities. There is limited space, so be considerate of your very nearby neighbors. Also, please plan to remove any trash your camp generates. The closest restaurants and grocery stores are in Hillsboro (20–30 minutes), Marlinton (30–40 minutes), and Lewisburg (45–60 minutes), so bring everything you need for the weekend and minimize trips offsite. Fires will not be permitted. Camping will be open from Noon Friday until 3 p.m. Sunday.

Friday and Saturday Nights: Beverages (beer, soda, water) and munchies will be provided. No band has been booked, but ideas are still being discussed for a program and party.

Trips: There will be led trips.

Saturday Night Feed: Dinner on Saturday will be provided by the hosting grottoes. The planned menu is bratwurst sausages or vegetarian option, with salad, baked beans (with bacon and vegetarian), corn, and whole small potatoes. Beer, soda, and water will be available at night near registration. Vegetarian meals must be pre-registered.

Sunday Morning Meeting: The VAR business meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday. The MAR ballot box will be at registration.

Pre-registration Deadline: You will receive a guidebook only if you pre-register by September 10. Those who register on site will get dinner but no guidebook. Pre-registration will cost $30 for VAR or MAR; $35 for combined VAR and MAR, $23 for children (5–16), and free for children under 5. On-site registration will cost $5 more.

Directions: From I-81, take I-64 West to Exit 169 in West Virginia, Lewisburg exit. Go north on Route 219 for 24 miles (passing through Maxwelton, Frankford, and Renick) up to the top of Droop Mountain and turn left on Lobelia Road. This is a one-and-a-half-lane road with some hairpin turns. Follow it to a "T" at Jacox Road (Jacob on google maps and many GPS units) and turn left. You will pass a church on the right and a graveyard on the left. Turn left into the first gravel driveway (labeled Boggs Run Road on GPS units). Follow the driveway, passing over the cattle guard, to a clearing with a cabin (registration).

Questions or Comments – email to Dusty Gulden – DustyCaver@aol.com
Registration Form

FALL MAR/VAR 2010 – October 1-3

Lower Campgrounds at Friars Hole Cave Preserve,

Pocohontas County, WV

Pre-Registration Deadline is September 10th

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Name(s):____________________________________________________________________
Name(s):____________________________________________________________________
Grotto(es):___________________________________________________________________
Street Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______________________ Zip: ________________
E-mail: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Make Checks payable to: Baltimore Grotto of the NSS

Mail to: Kim Fleischmann
        115 Stoneleigh Rd.
        Bel Air, MD 21014

Any other questions, comments, concerns email Dusty Gulden – DustyCaver@aol.com
OTR Chairman Jim Forsythe would like to invite you to the 61st annual Old Timers Reunion (OTR). It will start at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 2, 2010 and close at 12:00 noon Monday, September 6, 2010. OTR will be held at The Robertson Association (TRA) camp in Daley, West Virginia. To attend OTR you must be a TRA member or the guest of a TRA member.

Theme – This year’s Tex-Mex theme will prove a spicy fair throughout OTR. From creative doo-dah costumes, chili cook-off, a roving mariachi band to a kilt and sombrero night.

Has it been that long? – 2010 marks the 25th year we have been meeting at the TRA campground, it seems like just a few years ago we were back at Alpine Shores. Help us celebrate this milestone this year; we look forward to seeing you at OTR. Happy 25th!

Early Arrival/Late Departure Policy: Unless you are on the list of workers that are actually required to set up OTR or on the list of TRA workers that are actually required for work weekends, you will not be able to enter the site prior to noon Thursday. Coming to one work weekend will not put you on the early-arrival list. Staying after noon on Mon is only permitted for pre-authorized OTR clean-up crews to ensure that OTR staff can also leave.

Registration: Registration is open around the clock from 12 noon Thursday to 12 midnight Saturday. Staff and hours may reduce after midnight Thursday and Friday. Registration CLOSES 12:00 midnight on Saturday and reopens 8:30 am Sunday. OTR closes completely to new registrants and guests at 6 pm on Sunday. If you plan on arriving after 6 pm on Sunday, you must make prior CONFIRMED arrangements with our registration staff, Dave Frick at caverdave1@cox.net; and you must pay the full registration fee for Sunday. It is the responsibility of the person who wants to arrive after Registration closes to ensure confirmation of arrangements with Registration staff. If your name is not on their list, you’re not confirmed. Please get confirmation ahead of time to avoid the hassle of being turned away at the gate. Don’t forget to wear your “Stinkin’ Badges”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 OTR Registration Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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Infants under 3 years are permitted free entry

*Day starts at 4:00am
No Pre-Registrations

Day Passes: Passes are good for the day purchased from 8:30 am until 6 pm. To stick around after 6 pm, go through registration and purchase a regular pass. Without exception, day passes are $15 and include the non-refundable insurance surcharge, regardless of length of visit.

Guests: Guests are welcome at OTR, when invited and sponsored by a TRA regular member. You are responsible for the behavior of your guest. TRA regular members may sponsor up to 2 adult guests. Guests of all ages (except infants) pay the regular registration fee plus a $20 guest surcharge. Family companions 18 and over are considered guests, unless they are TRA members. Non-adult guests must be children of adult sponsors or the adult sponsor must provide proof of guardianship. We cannot permit entry to guests under 18 who are not lawfully in the custody of their adult sponsors. Legal verification may be required. Please choose your guests carefully; this is a cavers event, please invite only cavers.

Children of TRA Members: Children of TRA members up to the age of 17 are not considered guests and do not pay the guest surcharge. Caving children may apply for their own membership ($10) (see TRA Membership Drive below). Parents are fully responsible for their children at OTR.

Photo ID: You must provide legal photo ID at registration, even if you do not intend to consume any alcoholic beverages on site. OTR staff are authorized to request and see ID of any individual on-site. You must be over 21 to consume any alcoholic beverages on-site; and staff may ask for validation at any time.

Checks: OTR accepts cash or checks written in US funds and on US banks. OTR charges $30 on returned checks and reports nonpaying registrants to the authorities. OTR does not accept registration payment through credit or debit cards.

Pets: No pets are permitted at OTR, including the gate area or chained to/inside vehicles at the gate.

TRA Membership Drive: Have you been putting off submitting your TRA membership? Until July 31, you may use the 2010 E2 form that will streamline the membership process and you will be eligible for a $10 rebate on your OTR 2010 registration. If you were a Junior member or family dependent and are now over 18, you are eligible for a free upgrade to regular member if you act now. Sorry, upgrades will not receive the $10 rebate on OTR registration, but hey, it’s FREE. Find all registration forms at www.otr.org, or contact Scott Baker (smcavyn@sbcolglobal.net) for more information.

Overflow Camping: Due to the reduction in number of attendees, we have no need for an overflow camping area. All camp sites are on a first come first served basis.

Music at OTR – Featured in the pavilion will be Tyne and the Fastlyne, a special roving mariachi band, and Fingered. At the river stage you can find the Wally Beaver Band and The Jug Busters. Cooters will once again host The Shanty Irish and Buzz City. You can dance to music provided by DJ’s Johnny Parsons and Debbie St. Pierre.

3D Print show – For the last few years, Charles Kahn has been thrilling us with his 3D caving slide show on Thursday night. This
year he is providing a special 3D print salon with a unique twist. Look for more information in the Coot-n-Holler.

**Schedule of Events:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Opening ceremony and flag raising with Honor Guard followed by the traditional memorial service remembering our friends and family who have past. Lighting of the bonfire; Roots and Coots gathering; Buzz City at Cooters; TRA Grotto program for the night, “Sinnett-Thorn Mountain Cave System” video by Alex Sproul, Paul and Lee Stevens. Thursday night at the movies: “Treasures of the Sierra Madre” (1948) - &quot;Badges?... We don't need no... stinkin' badges!” and “Terror of Tiny Town” (1938) – Little guys with big guns!</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Speleo Olympics; Annual OTR Pub Crawl; Shanty Irish at Cooters; Friday night band - Tyne and the Fastlyne.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Annual Doo Dah Parade; textiles-only sauna; Speleo Olympics continues; kiddies activities; Batman the Magician; Wally Beaver Band and open mic at the river stage; Speleo Auction; Chili cook-off; Saturday night band – special Mariachi band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Speleo Olympics continue; Yard Sale; TRA Elections; TRA Board of Directors meeting; OTR Quilters meeting; The Jug Busters perform at the river stage; Kilt and sombrero night; OTR 2010 Multi-media Awards Ceremony; Sunday night band in the pavilion is &quot;Fingered&quot;</td>
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**Contests:**
The ever popular Speleo Olympics, Friday through Sunday will feature your favorite caver contests. Back by popular demand, the Home Brew beer contest featuring Strong Scotch Ale, best Tiki Bar and best camp site contests.

New contests this year include homemade wine judging sponsored by the Forks of the Cheat Winery and chili cook-off with categories of beef, non-beef, vegetarian (for more information on rules see [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org)). The contest schedule will be posted at the contest trailer.

**Food** – Greg Miller our food service vendor is planning on providing a beef or BBQ Chicken dinner this year. See the food wagon for more information and tickets.

**Slide shows** – With the success of last year’s slide show in the kiddie korral the Dead Puppies have agreed to present another slide show of caving and OTR exploits.

**Chainsaw wood carving** – Last year’s “stumpy” wild side fund raising event has inspired Brian Cunningham to demo his chainsaw bear carvings at the bonfire during OTR. Watch the Coot-n-Holler for more information.

**Fire art wood burning** – The Fire Artists will be back again this year at the bonfire providing wood burning art. This year they will have their own furnace.

**Pre-registration Auction** – During the auction this year we are taking a page out of the NSS manual and will be auctioning off 2 pre-registrations #1 & 2 for OTR 2011. Besides having the prestigious registration numbers, these winners will receive a special framed certificate and other 2011 OTR memorabilia. If you win the bid and really want a different registration number, just let us know.

**Awards Ceremony** – We are combining all awards presentations in a single ceremony on Sunday night. This show will be quite different from past presentations. Complete with a multimedia recap of OTR. Also included will be the election results, TRA awards, door prizes and preview of OTR 2011.

**Door Prizes** – Randomly throughout the Sunday awards presentation, we will be giving out FREE pre-registration for OTR 2011 to 10 lucky TRA members. You must be present to win, and you must be a TRA member. All member classes are eligible (Regular, Family and Junior). Make sure you don’t miss out on these valuable prizes. More information will be available on otr.org and in the Coot-n-Holler.

**Wireless Network** – The campground is equipped with a high-speed wireless network for Internet access during OTR weekend. A small fee is required to cover costs. Check details at Registration.

**Trash** – When possible, please recycle. Special recycle containers are provided for aluminum; please use them. If you can pack out your trash, please do so. At recent reunions, people have left large items such as furniture, firewood and household items. Please be considerate and pick up after yourselves, and remember that leaving furniture and other large items will result in increased fees for everyone.

**Volunteers** – OTR only happens because of its volunteers. We can always use help with the many different tasks before, during, and after OTR. Some areas requiring help are: Registration, Gate, Med Staff, Sauna, Audio/Video, IT, Contests, Daily Clean up, showers, wild side, security, Cooters and BrewCrew. If you would be interested in any of these, see the volunteer section on otr.org for more information and contacts. Sign up lists are online for Sauna, Gate and Med Staff.

**Vendors** – If you wish to sell anything at OTR you must make prior arrangement with Vendors Coordinator Norma Peacock (sweetbat1@aol.com - (256) 996-7180). Wednesday is set-up day for vendors; please don’t arrive earlier. Food concessions are already prearranged and must have the proper health and safety permits. No other food concessions are permitted. All vendors selling food or beverages may be visited by the Health Department’s inspector and must be set-up and ready for inspection when he arrives.

**Caving at OTR** – White Nose Syndrome (WNS) continues to be a problem in the region, and many caves with significant bat population are closed because of it. OTR does not organize caving trips, so if you do go caving please check the closed cave list first. [http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/CC/cc-frameset.html](http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/CC/cc-frameset.html). You should practice proper cave gear disinfection procedures before and after entering caves in the area.

**To contact OTR staff**, visit [http://myotr.org/contact-us](http://myotr.org/contact-us). OTR is a caver event - Please sponsor only cavers.

*This information may be distributed to caving clubs, cave conservancies, and individual cavers only.*