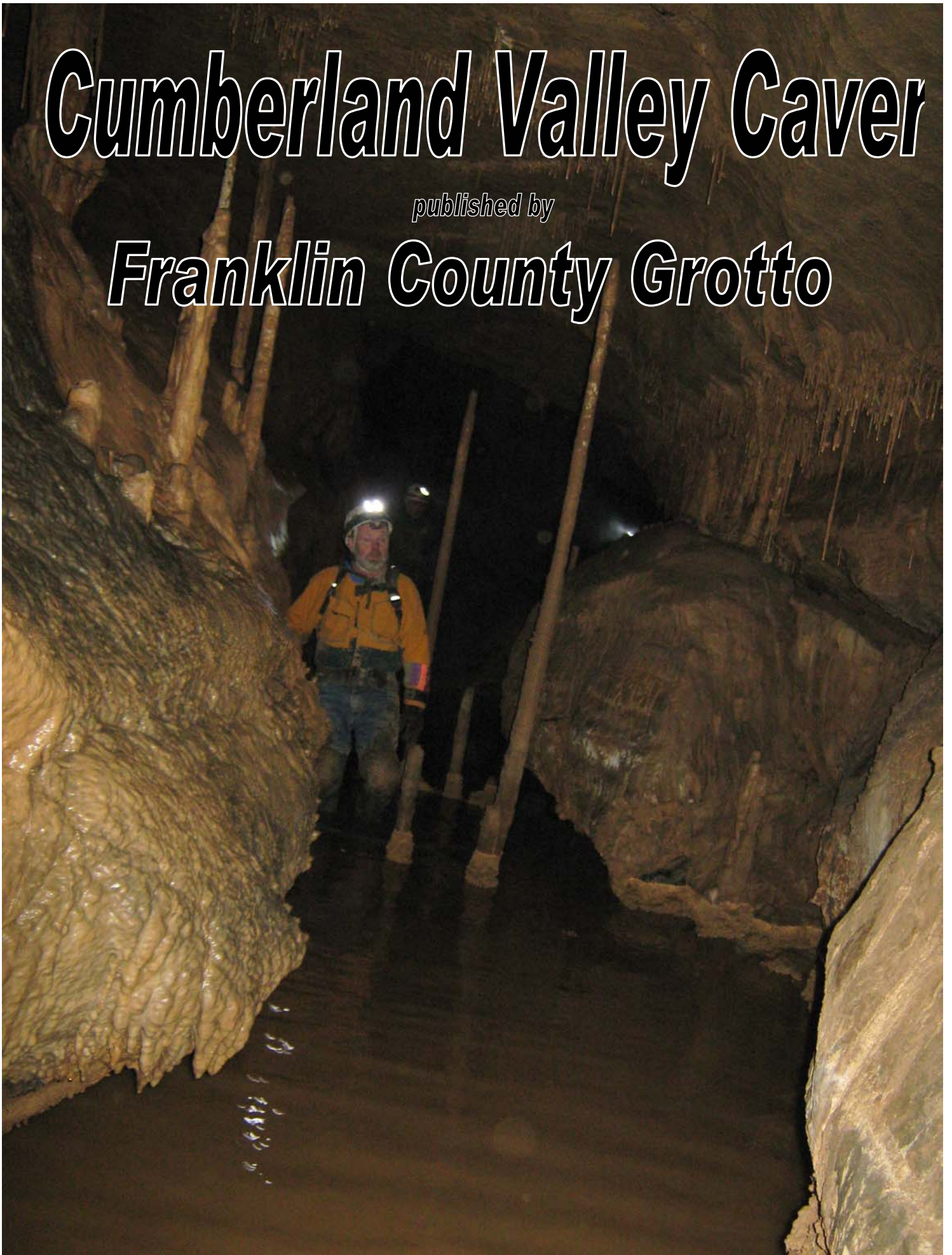


Cumberland Valley Caver

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Franklin County Grotto



CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

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Franklin County Grotto meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month in New Franklin Fire Department, New Franklin, PA. The fire department is located on PA Route 316, 3 miles east of I-81 (exit #14). The meeting starts at 7:30 PM. Both grotto caving trips and smaller individual trips are planned at these meetings. All members are invited depending on their ability to safely participate. You must attend at least one vertical training session in order to participate in vertical trips. Contact any of the above individuals for more information.

The Cumberland Valley Caver is published a couple of times per year by the Franklin County Grotto PA. All cave related articles should be submitted to the editor for publication. The contents of this publication are not copyrighted unless previously copyrighted by the author. Material from this publication may be reprinted by other official organizations of the National Speleological Society without prior permission provided credit is given to the original author and this publication, and the article is not changed in anyway. Other interested parties must request permission in advance. Franklin County Grotto actively participates in a newsletter exchange program. All exchanges should be mailed to: Ken Jones, 4446 Duffield Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17201. Information regarding exchanges should be coordinated with editor so the exchange list can be updated.

Cover: Dane Wagle in stream passage to Tufa Room in Lightner's *Photo by:* Gordy Ley

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From the editor... On behalf of the members of Franklin County Grotto, I want to offer our sincere regrets to Dale Ibberson’s friends and family on his recent passing. He was well known and liked by those who knew him and caved with him. Twenty years ago, when I started caving, I remember seeing his name on the legends of many Pennsylvania maps. He will be missed by the caving community.

While on the subject of not so happy news, I would like to note that the White Nose Syndrome that is killing bats continues to spread. I felt a WNS update was necessary in the issue, but every time I would work in current update, I would immediately receive another of another cave being infected and closed. First the NSS John Guilday Preserve is closed due to presence of what appears to be WNS, then The Shindle Iron Mine in Mifflin Co., PA has dead bats and a 70% infected rate. As soon as I noted these, then Breathing Cave has dead bats and early signs of WNS and is closed by the owner. Then Clarke’s Cave closed. Clover Hollow Cave in VA, numerous dead bats and large numbers are staged near the entrance. A proposed moratorium on all caving in Virginia is being considered until April 15th, 2009. In some articles they are still commenting on how this might be spread by cavers (from NY), while in other articles the symptoms are showing up in places where no one has been for over two years. So Keep cleaning your gear between caves and between trips, but be careful of what you use to clean your ropes, harnesses, and other vertical gear.

Thanks to Gordy, Tina, Terry, Todd R, Tim, Anne, Jonathan and Ken J. for contributing articles, photos and information used in this issue.

Ken Tayman, Editor

Speleo-Spotlight...

Tim Long

NSS # 30877

Tim Long started caving in 1986 when his friend Todd Hancock needed a partner for ridge walking and other caving activities and invited him along. His first caves were Aitkins, Rupert, Ruth and J-4, the last three of which would either scare you away from caving or hook you. Almost 25 years he's still at it, and it's all Todd's fault!

Over the years he has been involved with several team discoveries and projects. He did however, discover Blacklog Cave (AKA Longcock) and did "Pull the leaf/stick plug out of the Blacklog entrance, all by himself" He has worked on map and survey projects in Blacklog, Fantasy, Sugar, Whisper Rocks, and did one survey trip in "Shovel Eater" in 2005. The Sugar cave project spanned 18 years where he (and others) monitored a sinkhole in Mifflin County as it grew larger and larger. They kept poking into openings and finally after he and Todd dug through 28 feet of rock along a joint/bedding plane found a couple thousand feet of cave. He helped dig and survey a blowing lead in a commercial cave (Whispering Rocks) with some super decorated passage and continues today to work on a bolted vertical dig. He is always on the look for possible digs and new cave.

Some trips that stand out in his memory are two 11 hour loops in Hostermin's Pit in the 90's. Also there was the time when he and Todd did J-4, Deadcat Cave and Rupert Cave all in one day. It started out with Tim nearly killing Todd with a large rolling, bouncing rock that he dislodged on the way down the steep slope Deadcat entrance. Later that day they helped a hysterically crying and shaking woman who froze at the step-across in J-4. They ended the day with a trip back into the jewel room in Rupert. He remembers the scariest trips being coming out of J-4 to find the ledge across the quarry face covered with ice from freezing rain. And then there was the time on that same ledge when his leaking carbide light engulfed itself, helmet and his hair in flames. That ledge is dicey enough when it's dry and when you're not on fire. McFadden's was "sportiest" cave with all the tight passages and digging in the freakin super-goopy Old Port/Keyser orange clay slop in Whisper Rocks (while laying

Tim leading a trip in Kookan Cave. *Photo by Gordy*

in water), then hauling it out in 5 gallon buckets as some of the toughest caving he's done.

Tim lives near the northern block of Tuscarora State Forest and enjoys hiking, camping, fishing and hunting there. He is a Conservation Volunteer for DCNR and does trail construction and maintenance in that area. He went to Mt Union Area High School and is a graduate of Juniata College (BS in Geology) and almost completed his MS in Geology at West Virginia University. Currently he works as a geologist for PA Department of Environmental Protection, Waste Management Program. Mainly reviews permit applications and groundwater monitoring data for landfills and assists in complaint response and investigation related to illegal dumping, spills, etc by performing sampling and examining the hydrology of a given area. A good guy to cave with! □