

CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

Published by

Franklin County Grotto



CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

published by
FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO
an affiliate of the National Speleological Society

Vol. 8, No 2

June 2007

2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



SECRETARY

Pat Minnick
14220 Mountain Rd
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 765-0521

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Howard C. White
1160 Three Square Hollow
Newburg, PA 17240
(717) 423-6005

CHAIR-PERSON

Kenneth C. Jones
4446 Duffield Rd.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717)267-2669

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Kenneth B. Tayman
13373 Sunrise Drive
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
(717)794-2069

EDITOR

Kenneth B. Tayman
13373 Sunrise Drive
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
(717)794-2069

MEMBERSHIP DUES

REGULAR (NSS MEMBER)	\$7
NON-NSS MEMBERS	\$9
FAMILY MEMBERS	\$3
LIFE (NSS ONLY) 20 x Reg	

TREASURER

Diane White
1160 Three Square Hollow
Newburg, PA 17240
(717) 423-6005

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Don Arrowood
437 Ramsey Ave.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717)593-0808

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 the secretary so the exchange list can be updated.

Cover: Jonathan Peterson climbing out of pit in McAllisterville Cave” Photo: by Ken Tayman

Table of Contents

From the Editor.....	3
Speleo-Spotlight: Barry Duncan.....	4
VAR -TUB Cave.....	5
VAR - Cassel Cave.....	8
Cleversburg Sink Update.....	10
Python Pit.....	11
Ron Simmons – Cave Diving Accident.....	12
Simmons-Mingo Rescue.....	12
Adam Stephen’s (underground railroad dig).....	13
Peipers Cave Clean Up.....	15
Speleo-Calendar/ CAVE BUCK\$.....	18
Membership Roster.....	19

From the Editor.....

Well, we seem to be on a roll! -Two issues, in two consecutive quarters. Thanks to Ish we will have a little variety of authors this quarter. I had mentioned something last issue about getting into WET cave this year. Ish and Todd got a taste of “wet” when they did the sump in Python Pit and got back to the “Monster Dome” and “Real Cave” Not a lot of people have been in that part of the cave, and even fewer have done the sump to get there. There has been a resurgence in week night evening trips, resulting in a couple trips to the P-Caves in Williamson, several weeknight vertical practice sessions and a Wednesday evening Graffiti cleanup trip to Peipers. Apparently, some jerk had more spray paint than common sense and decided to mark up the cave. Thanks to Don Arrowood for providing some of the pictures of the project. Also, thanks to Diane for researching “Cave Bucks” data.

A few of us spent the Memorial Day weekend working with some of Jim Hart’s cohorts at the rocks, showing them the basics of rappelling. They plan to use these new skills to rop roadside cliffs to study plant and animal life at some up to now unreachable sites. (waiting on write-up from Jim)

Planning for our July trip to Butler/Sinking Creek seems to have led pretty well. BCCS member, Ed Kehs, has agreed to take us in. It’s been over ten years since FOG has even attempted to get in, and that trip was SNAFU’d due to a broken key in the lock and we ended up doing a Crosspads trip instead. We will provide more info (camping, departure times, etc) regarding the Butler trip later.

Sincerely, Ken Tayman