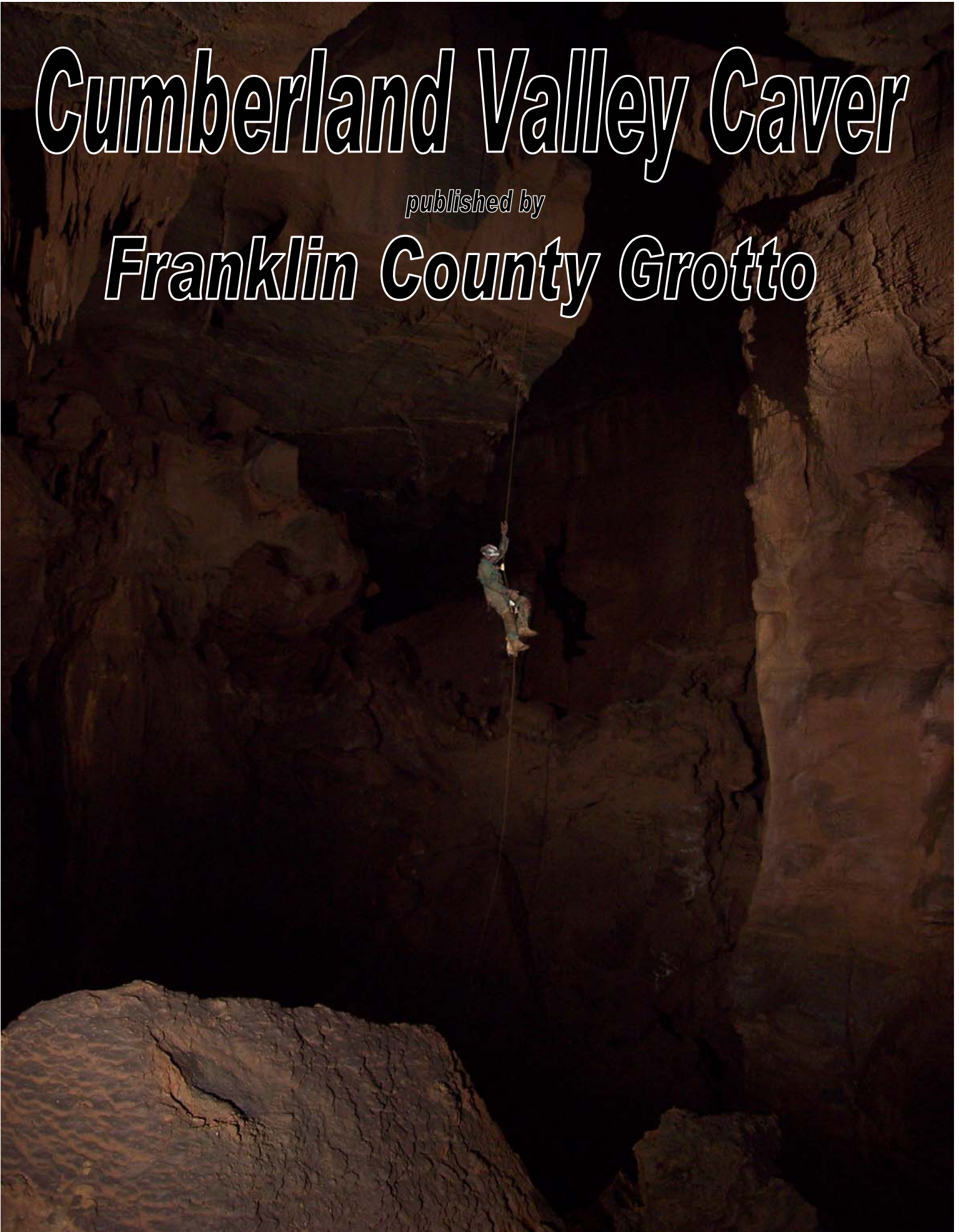


Cumberland Valley Caver

published by

Franklin County Grotto



CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

Published by
FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO
An affiliate of the National Speleological Society

Vol. 9, No 1

March 2008

2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



SECRETARY

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

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Christopher Edenbo
1421 Trindle Road
Carlisle, PA 17015
(717) 423-2019

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

Todd Roberts
231 West Street
Winchester, VA 22601
(703)599-3860

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: FCG member, Terry McClanathan, ascending the Southwest Dome in Hellhole. This dome was scaled by Bill Stone and Yvonne Droms in 2002 or 2003. The total height is about 270'. The main drop is 247'. It is the second deepest (highest) pit in W. Va. *Photo: by Brian Masney*

Table of Contents

From the Editor.....	3
Speleo-Spotlight: Todd Roberts <i>by Ken Tayman</i>	4
Return To the Omega System <i>by Terry McClanathan</i>	5
I LL Fated Cave <i>by Nick Stoner</i>	8
Ropes – For - Slopes <i>Chapter 2 by Jim Hart</i>	9
New Ladder In Cleversburg Sink <i>by Ken Tayman</i>	12
Fire at Crystal Grotto Caverns.....	16
FCG New Year Party/ Quote of the Quarter/ Cartoon.....	16
Bridge Day Rappel <i>by Jonathan Peterson</i>	17
News Clip / 20,000 Bats Delay Interstate Construction / Bat Facts.....	19
White Nose Syndrome <i>(update)</i>	19

From the Editor.....

The year is off to a good start. We had good participation getting the new ladder into Cleversburg sink. It was a long time coming and we just did get it in before it re-flooded for God knows how long. Thanks Howard for another good design and sturdy construction. We will continue our efforts at the Cleversburg area with projects to update the Kiosk and place signs with guidance regarding parking in the area and use of the park’s bathroom facilities. This includes an education program for cavers going into Carnegie. We plan to continue Jonathan’s very successful Wednesday night caving trips and are attempting to have several vertical practice sessions that hopefully will lead to a couple vertical trips for our new vertical cavers.

Extra effort is being directed to getting the website back up and running. We plan to make good use of the website regarding status of caves closed due to the White Nose Syndrome, status of water level in Cleversburg sink, guidance for Carnegie Cave, and several other nice to have subjects.

The New Year Party went well, raised lots of money with the auction. Todd R. presented a good draft of the Fantasy map. We are still filling in gaps with new sketches. All members are now also aware of just what a “White Elephant Auction” is!

I want to mention the “White Nose Syndrome (WNS)” that has hit the bat population in New England very hard. Caver support of closed caves is solicited. So far the Franklin County area is supporting the approach of avoiding infected areas and cleaning all gear thoroughly between caves and trips and we will be following guidance established by government agencies and cave property owners. We plan to keep all members up to date on “Official” status of local and regional caves. Pat and I are finalizing the call out roster, which will be forwarded to all participants for review very soon. Thanks to Jim, Jonathan, Nick, and Terry for submitting articles and photos for use in this issue.

Sincerely, Ken Tayman

Speleo-Spotlight...

Todd Roberts

NSS# 48351

Todd's first wild cave adventure was as a teenager when he went to a week long summer caving camp in Pendleton County, WV. Quarry Cave, New Trout, Kee Cave and The Sinks of Gandy were the caves that got him hooked. Several years later he found himself driving in that same area, recognized the parking area near New Trout and scrambled up to the entrance. This rekindled his interest in caving. He recruited some friends, read up a little, got some maps and went caving whenever he could. His mother gave him membership in the NSS as a Christmas present, hoping it would get him together with some knowledgeable safe cavers.

After a few years he moved to Winchester, VA. and decided it was time to join a grotto. He found Tri-State Grotto on the internet and went to their meeting the next night in Martinsburg. There he met up with Jonathan Peterson and me, who were also members of Franklin County Grotto. We invited Todd to a Franklin County Grotto Vertical practice session and also recruited him to assist with a mapping project in Huntingdon County, PA. This turned out to be a very smart move on our part. Todd started out the survey on the "dumb" end of the tape and quickly assumed compass, book, sketching and cartographic responsibilities and became a "KEY" member of the survey team.

He finds it difficult to name a favorite cave. He likes mazy, multi-level caves, with pretty formations, streams and waterfalls (don't we all?) Some of his more memorable caving moments include the first time he entered Mystic River in Scott Hollow, exiting Sharps cave into an unexpected 3" of snow that fell while in the cave, the chest deep water in narrow canyon passage in Mercer County, WV that exited at the top of a water fall in a steep ravine. He enjoys cave photography and enjoys the challenge to try and light large rooms and

Todd at Cleversburg Sink ladder project. Photo by Ken T.

passages. Just getting started in his vertical caving career, he did Elkhorn Mountain, Roadside pit and 185 foot Sites Cave. He hasn't had any really scary situations yet, but has found himself in situations where a misstep or wrong move would be "very bad" or, after squeezing through a long tight spot realizing that if anything were to happen, rescue would be next to impossible.

Todd currently works as an Audio/visual Tech for Shenandoah University Pharmacy School, recording lectures for students who take classes online from around the country. Previously he did audio work at the Kennedy Center in DC. Great to have Todd as FCG member.

Written by Ken Tayman □