

Cumberland Valley Caver

published by

Franklin County Grotto



December 2012

CUMBERLAND VALLEY CAVER

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FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTO

An Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society

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Franklin County Grotto meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month. The location has been changed from the New Franklin Fire Department, New Franklin, PA, to the Franklin Fire Dept at 158 W. King Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201. 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. Visitors are welcome. Contact any of the above individuals for more information or email fcg@karst.org.

The Cumberland Valley Caver is published four 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: Dave Morrow rappelling 97' Crookshank entrance to Friar's Hole system, WV Photo by Andy Filer

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See the entire newsletter in **COLOR** on the website

http://www.karst.org/fcg/fcg_newsletters.htm

From the editor... I usually make the effort to spread the cover photo around to various members and give everyone a few seconds in the spotlight. However, Dave was on both the September and this issue. It is hard to identify Dave on this cover since it is only a shadow. All nine of us on the trip did this drop and this was the best picture looking almost straight up over 100 feet to the ceiling of Crookshank Pit of the Friars Hole system. The drop is as beautiful as depicted in this shot.

I'd like to note that one of our members, Andy Filer, has departed with the PA National Guard to Ft Hood, Texas for some final training before deployment, in January 2013, to Afghanistan as a Blackhawk helicopter crewman. Andy is one of our most active cavers and we will miss him. We all wish him a safe deployment and return in a year.

In November, we started a couple of survey projects with hopes to train up a couple of teams that can attack a larger project next year. Dave Collings is managing the project(s). It should include some digging. If interested in a little **project caving** make sure you contact one of us. There is room for your participation even if you have no experience.

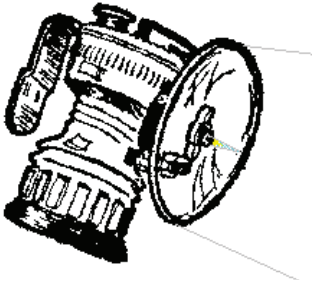
I'd like to thank Andy, Gordy, John, Don, Barry, Jake, Mike, Anne, Terry and Pat for articles, pictures, quotes, printing, distribution assistance and web support used in getting this issue out to our members and friends.

Ken Tayman, Editor

Speleo-Spotlight...

Mike Scafani

NSS# 63896 FCG # 251

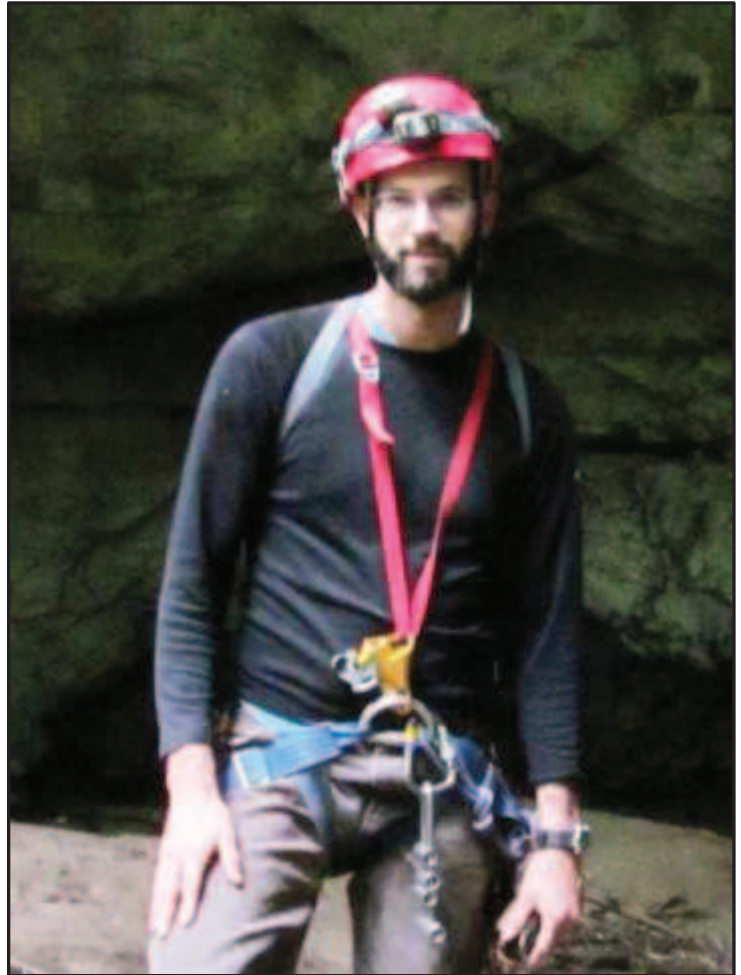


Mike started caving while working with the U.S. Forest Service in Bend, Oregon. He had lots of experience working with bats as part of his graduate degree - everything from mist-netting/capturing to conducting acoustic surveys and wind-turbine surveys, hosting summer bat talks and providing demonstrations at a local museum. It was only natural that he would wind up caving. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Oregon High Desert Grotto and discovered how much there was to see underground.

His first cave was Lavacicle Cave in central Oregon, a gated cave with very limited access. People said he was being spoiled by seeing such a nice cave first; being that it was highly decorated. Not realizing how tight the squeeze was to get to the more hidden part of the cave, he ruined his camera here, getting the shutter packed full of fine sand. Due to his previous bat experience, both the Forest Service and OHDG utilized him to help with bat counts both within caves and emergence/swarming surveys.

After he started working at the PGC, he mentioned his affinity for caving to his co-workers & was pleasantly surprised that a few other individuals were also interested in caving and they suggested joining Franklin County Grotto. He says it has been a great experience ever since!

His scariest cave moments include being lowered into Duo Pits by the Search and Rescue team via a pulley system (entrance squeeze was too tight to use rappel gear to pass, both going up and down through this section... getting stuck while coming back out was kind of tricky, having to be lowered a bit and trying again). Also, he signed up for a caving trip up in Washington State...when he got there he noticed it was an 'experienced vertical' cave trip. He had little more than some basic training & didn't even have his own vertical gear, but his fellow cavers were great. In no time at all, they gave him parts and pieces of their own gear, which eventually made a complete set and backed over the first of three vertical drops with little more than a figure-8. It was a bit scary. Since then, and despite the fact that he still

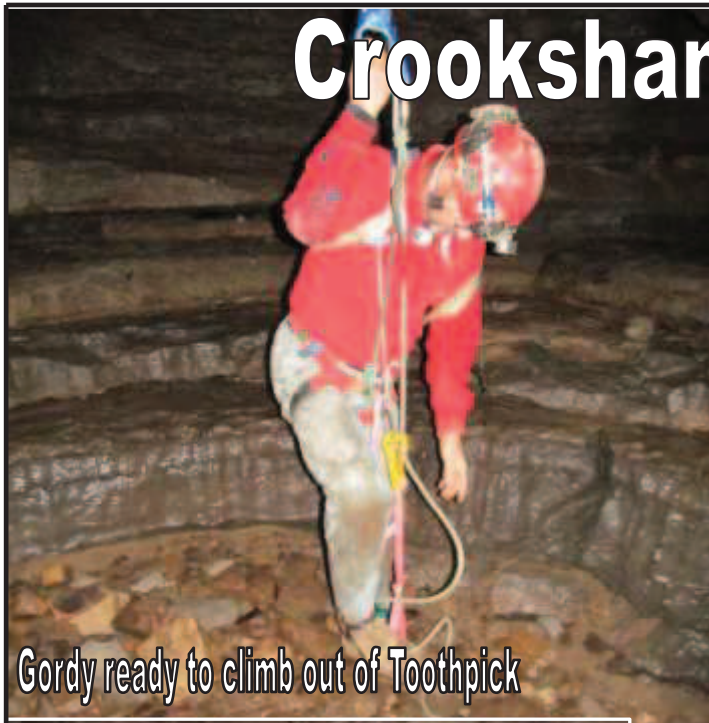


Mike at Toothpick (Friar's Hole System), WV Photo by Gordy Ley

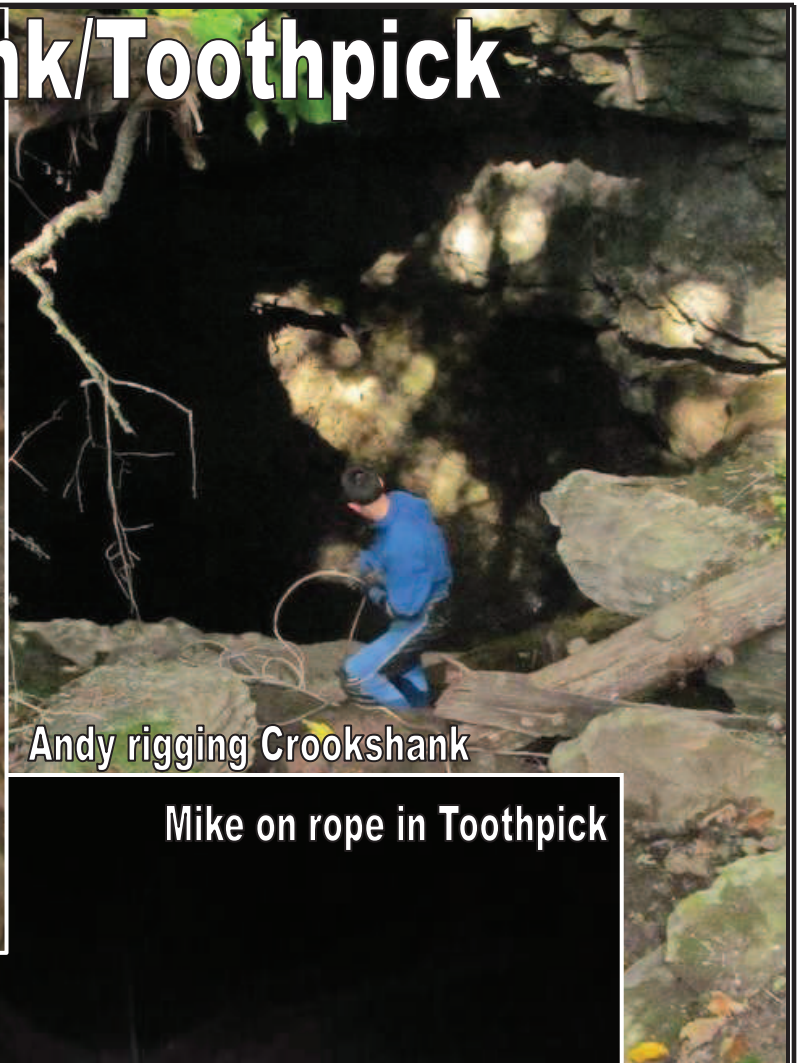
consider himself a novice on rope, he looks forward to any and all vertical caves. **Caves; WV**-Crookshank, Toothpick, **PA**-Hesston, McAlisterville, Flemings Trough, Dragon, Red Church, **Oregon**: Pictograph, Boca, Charlie-the-Cave, Derrick, Hairpin, Hidden Forest, Stookey Ranch, Tree, Ariel, South Ice, Arnold Ice, Duo Pits at Sheridan Mtn, Edison Ice, Sawyers, Quartz Mtn, Century and Moss Pits, Lee, Perry, Charcoal, Lavacicle, Boyd, Skylight, Lost Boy and Hug Point (sea caves)...

He also enjoys mountain biking, camping & photography. He has B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from University of Delaware; M.S. in Biology from East Stroudsburg University, and currently works as a Wildlife Biologist for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. *by Ken Tayman*

Crookshank/Toothpick



Gordy ready to climb out of Toothpick

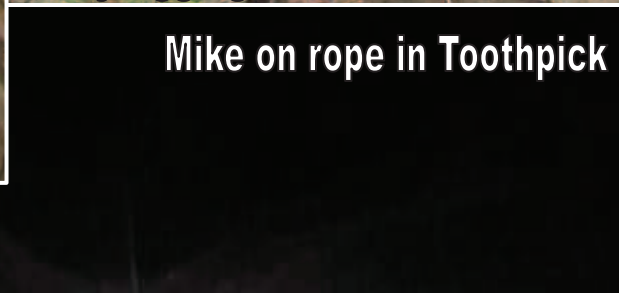


Andy rigging Crookshank



Dave
in

(Toothpick)



Mike on rope in Toothpick



Pattie Mothes

Crookshank/Toothpick

September 14-16, 2012 by Ken Tayman

I had been thinking about a Crookshank trip as a reward for our new Franklin County members who had been doing a lot of vertical practice for a couple months and were ready for a vertical trip. It is hard to appreciate the beauty of this drop from any perspective except from the bottom looking up over 100 feet at the sun-lit ceiling, and this would be a very memorable trip for them. FCG cavers on this trip: John Boswell, Gordy Ley, Dave Morrow, Mike Scafini, Jeff Boyer, Jake Troup, Dane Wagle, Andy Filer, and me Ken Tayman.

We arrived on Friday evening and I led a short trip into Snedegars. We entered via the stream entrance near the lower field house and negotiated the 15' drop. Then the first timers got their first peek at really "HUGE" cave. We worked our way down nearly to the sump and then went up to the Snedegars Main



Ken T, Dane, Jake and John getting ready to do 97' drop into Crookshank of the 40+ mile Friar's Hole System. Entrance is in background. *Photo by Mike Scafini*

entrance. All the time taking in the huge passage.

We finished up the short trip by seeking out the Salt Peter maze and exiting through the high entrance about 25' above the stream entrance where we started the trip.

On Saturday morning we gathered our gear and started the "long hike" of at least a mile (or more) up to Crookshank. Our young

group headed out early (and fast) with the rope and would start rigging while we old timers took our time on the long hike.

As you approach the big sink, Crookshank's large huge dark arch in the hillside, still impresses everyone no matter how many times you may have seen it.



Andy tying off rope near well known "Rats May Chew Your Rope" sign. Photo by Mike

Andy assumed rigging responsibility. The rest

geared up. Gordy and I had spoken with Aida Mothes on Friday and she was under the impression that a group had just caved through the sump the previous week. So several of us planned to do the sump on the way out instead of the climb. I am getting "old" and the idea of the 97' climb was not on the top of my list of things to do. I had done the climb twice before

and that was enough for me. We did, of course, all carry our climbing gear and stashed it at the base of the drop in case we would *HAVE* to climb out.

After all enjoyed the beautiful rappel into half sun-lit pit (*see cover photo*), we started our crawl. The goal was the Shark Room and the nearby river in Rubber Chicken portion of the cave. The "400' Terrible Crawl", which is the most direct route to that part of the

cave, is still mostly silted up, and would have required a snowplow type crawl all the way in a 12" high passage.

Today's route would be quite a bit longer, but with less crawling (100') through similar passage, but it had already been snowplowed open by several trips in the last couple years. Also this route would include some really nice stream passage and a nice, climbable water fall.

After getting to the top of the waterfall, we hit the "Sloppy Crawl". I'd been through this twice before,



Andy still rigging near the edge of the drop.

Photo by Mike Scafani



Chicken Cave and the Shark Room.

Dane and I checked out the area awhile, then found our way back to the "Sloppy Crawl" and back to the top of the waterfall. To the left and down the waterfall would retrace our route back to Crookshank. (a lot of crawling followed by a 100' climb out). To the right would be a decent section of nice walking passage, then 100' of stream with 6-12 inches of air, then another couple 100 feet of fairly easy, silted, though long crawl. We slowly worked our way toward the sump all the time thinking about that neck-deep cold water!!

The "Most Disappointing Moment" of the trip for me was when we arrived at the sump and saw there was only 2" of air! We searched all around hoping for an alternate point with more air but there just wasn't any to be found. This would mean backtracking 20 minutes to the waterfall, then another 20 minutes to the crawl, 30 minutes of belly crawling back to bottom of Crookshank, then waiting for your turn to climb 100', then the mile+

Gordy walking stream passage, heading toward bottom of waterfall. Photo by Mike Scafini

but always from the opposite direction. Hard to remember all the small details after almost 20 years. It was still "sloppy", but not too bad or too long. The opening at the other end was a whole lot smaller than remembered and I was wondering if I would have been able to find it if coming from the opposite direction after such a long period of time.

It was about here that Dane and I decided we had done enough crawling for this trip and decided to split from the group. We would take our time and slowly work our way back to the water fall and then head toward the sump. The rest would work their way through the crawls to the "Promised Land" and the connection to Rubber

hike back to camp. I was exhausted just thinking about it! We turned and headed back. Met up with the others at the water fall. We sent the young and fast (same people) ahead and had them start climbing out. With 9 people, each taking 10-15 minutes to climb out meant a long wait at bottom for some.

I thought I would never get back to the entrance room. Belly crawl, more belly crawl and to top it off, the passage was so small it was hard to stay on trail. Had a difficult time at the right turn. Weren't sure where on the path, but finally made it.

Andy, Jeff, Mike, were already out, Jake was climbing and Gordy, me, John, Dane and Dave were queued up waiting our turn.

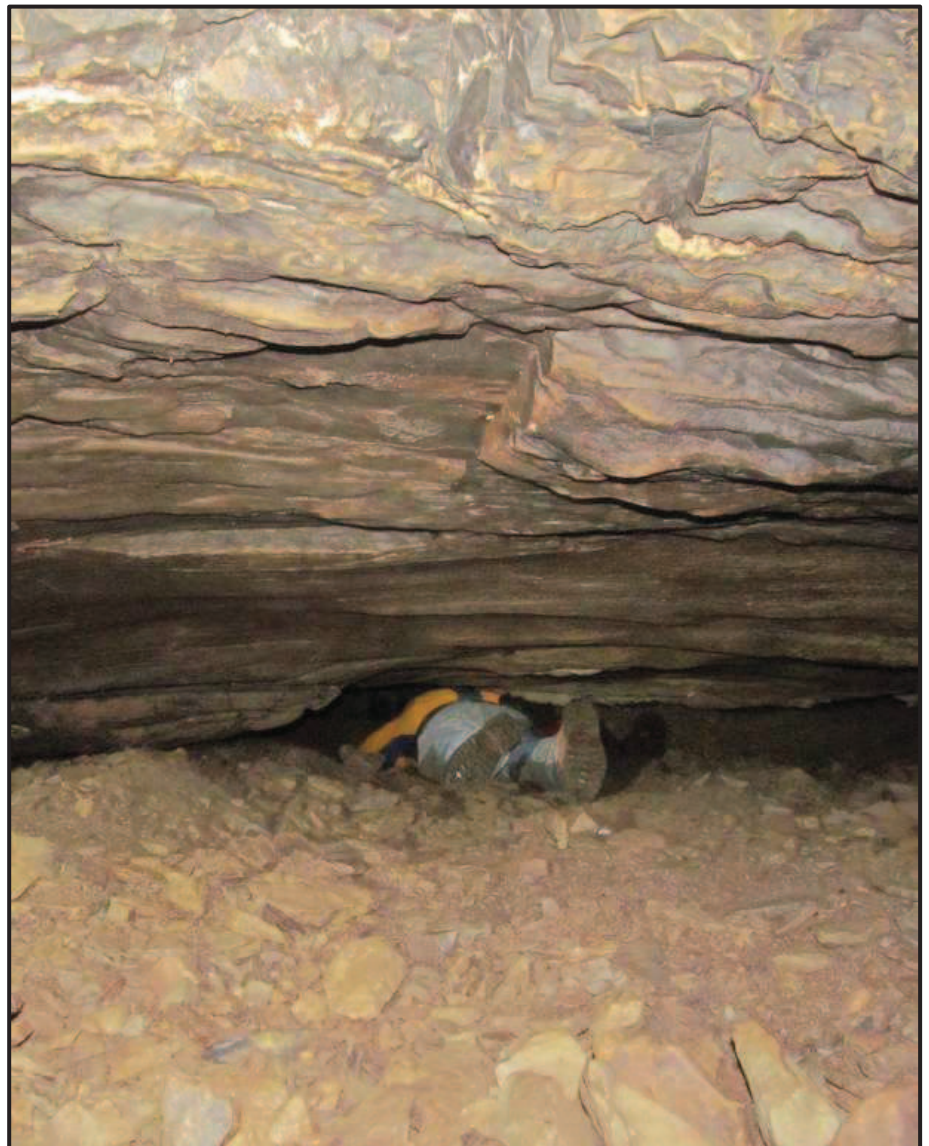
I was not looking forward to the climb, but it was the only way out. Too bad I wasn't 45 pounds lighter and 10 years younger. Sixty-Four (and a half) might be a little too old for non-hard-core caver such as myself.

I started my climb and within two minutes I knew I was in for a horrible time. Chest harness was so tight I couldn't breathe. When I

tried to rest, I couldn't breathe. So I struggled to a shelf about 35 feet from the floor and sat back on it, loosened my chest harness some so I could breathe deep, and took a long break, just taking long deep breaths and tried to recover my wits.

Over my 25 years of caving I had always been told, and

also told other new cavers that at some time, you would be in a situation where you would have work yourself out of a situation, because there would just not be any one else there to help out! You would just have to do it on your own. And here I was in that exact situation. Sitting on a ledge, 35' above the floor, alone, with another 60 feet



Dane entering crawl. This passage goes from high to low quickly. *Photo by Mike Scafini*

of free climb to go, and not really sure I was up to it.

After a 15 minute break to rest and collect my thoughts, I decided to continue my climb. It took an unbelievable amount of dedication and courage for me to get started again. I stood up, cinched up my chest harness, walked out the slack in the rope. Yelled up and down that I was climbing again. Made several feet, then started to climb 4 or 5 steps and rest for 5 seconds, then repeat.

I was out of mental and physical energy, my arms

and legs where weak. I was hoping I wouldn't have a heart attack. I was really scared!!! Eventually I reached the bottom of the long rope pad, which meant now I could place my hands against the wall and keep my vertical aspect easier. After a few more climb and rest cycles, I actually had a few toe holds I could use. At this point I felt like I was going to survive.

Once I was off rope, John, Dane and Dave climbed out. Dave did a great job of hauling a few bags of extra gear.

Everyone said that my last 60' of climb looked pretty good from down below. If they only knew?

We all headed back to the field house and had hamburgers and Hot dogs cooked up by Gordy. Lots of talk about the abusive amount of crawling done that day. I also noted that my vertical caving days will be taking a severe reevaluation due the difficult climb. Perhaps doing short climbs with sufficient practice before attempting. We will see.

Sunday morning found a smaller group doing Toothpick, a 60' pit not far from the camp in a DEEP sinkhole. Gordy, Mike, Dave and Andy did this drop. Everyone thought it was a great pit and most plan to do it again.

We pulled out a little after noon. A really great trip. New cave for a lot of our group. A very enlightening trip for me☐



John, Dane, Jake and Ken climbing up well scalloped, clean waterfall at low flow. Photo by Mike Scafini

2012

Cleversburg Sink/Carnegie Activity Summary

prepared by Ken Tayman

Jan 27

Cleversburg Sink-Ken T, Gordy, Don and Steve met up with Professor Feeney and Chad to collect water samples and dump. Due to very recent rain water had risen to 26.5 feet.

Mar 11

Cleversburg Sink-Ken and Stewart Tayman checked water level at about 25 feet. Picked up some trash on the way out.

April 20

Cleversburg Sink-Ken T, Gordy and Professor Feeney collected water and dumped data, Performed lock maintenance, & picked up trash. Checked water level at about 25 feet. Dropped off CVC at the township supervisor office.

Carnegie-Retrieved register, and started to replace old register with new ammo can, but had issues with cable. Will have to make a second trip to complete exchange. Picked up trash on the way out.

May 14

Carnegie-Ken T and Gordy Ley finished replacing the register and checked water. Very wet!!!

June 18

Cleversburg Sink-Ken T and Jake Troup checked water level at Cleversburg Sink. Water is about 27 feet. Picked up Trash and oiled lock.

July 21

Burd Run Trash Clean-Up-At 10:00 am, nineteen cavers from FCG, MAKC and Philly Grotto, met at the park and broke up into 4 teams: trash removal, brush and down tree removal, old ladder removal from Cleversburg Sink and a refreshments team. Removed a trailer load of trash including rubber tire, storm door, paint cans, lumber, hoses, siding, bottles, buckets and cans. Hauled trash to township dumpster. Had Hot dogs, chips, & sodas. Completed at 3:00 pm. Stats: **1,353** miles driven **127** man-hours worked.

Cleversburg Sink-Kerry Speelman checked water level at about 25 feet. With drought, anticipate water level to drop!

Aug 4

Cleversburg Sink- Ken T, Gordy & Dane, picked up trash and Checked water level at about 18'. Down about 7' since brush removal in Burd Run.

Aug 24

Cleversburg Sink-Ken T checked water level at 13th rung on ladder.

Sep 20

Carnegie-Ken T received an email from Director of Adventure Programs, Messiah College, advising that members of his organization had a note placed on their car while parked in garage parking lot. The owner doesn't want cavers parking there anymore. suggested Ken Jones talk with owner to see if we could salvage the parking arrangement.

Sep 26

Carnegie-Ken Jones and Gordy Ley stopped by garage where Carnegie cavers have been parking for the last three years to speak with owner regarding parking arrangement. No Luck. Owner doesn't want anyone parking there anymore. They visited township supervisor but they were very busy, Will visit again later

Oct 5

Cleversburg Sink-Gordy, Glen, Jeff Boyer & Ken T meet with Prof Feeney to dump about 5 months worth of data. Water at 15 feet. Shoveled mud from around gate and away from old cement gate.

Carnegie-Ken T and Gordy, checked the park parking lot previously described as gravel lot. This lot is now paved and known as Park Ave West. We secured permission for Carnegie cavers to park there. Must emphasize no use of park facilities.

Nov 3

Cleversburg Sink- Ken T and Dave C. checked gate, picked up trash and located a couple Den Caves for upcoming survey. Burd Run running full bore.

Dec 7

Cleversburg Sink- Gordy, Ken T, Dave and John checked water level at 24'. Performed lock maint.

CAVE BUCK\$

As of November 19, 2012

Franklin County Grotto sponsors a "Cave Bucks" program that solicits voluntary contributions from its cavers of \$1.00 per cave visited during the month. The money collected is then forwarded to a Cave conservancy or other organization for the specific purpose of buying or leasing caves.

On November 19, 2012, FCG approved a \$50 cave buck contribution to the West Virginia Cave Conservancy. Since starting in February 1998, FCG has collected and donated \$1282.00 Cave Bucks to the following organizations:

Tytoona Cave Preserve	\$ 40
Southeastern Cave Conservancy	\$ 54
Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy	\$282
West Virginia Cave Conservancy	\$368
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy	\$513
Appalachian Cave Conservancy	\$ 25
Total	\$ 1282

"Quotes of the Quarter"

**"If you are going to be stupid,
you've got to be tough."**

PM re comments on stupid actions in cave

"You're a better diplomat than I am."

AS to KT re TH NSS Convention email blasts

**"I guess I could have washed my hands
when I went to the bathroom then."**

KT to KC re hand washing at pizza joint

2013 Officers

Chairman: Ken Tayman

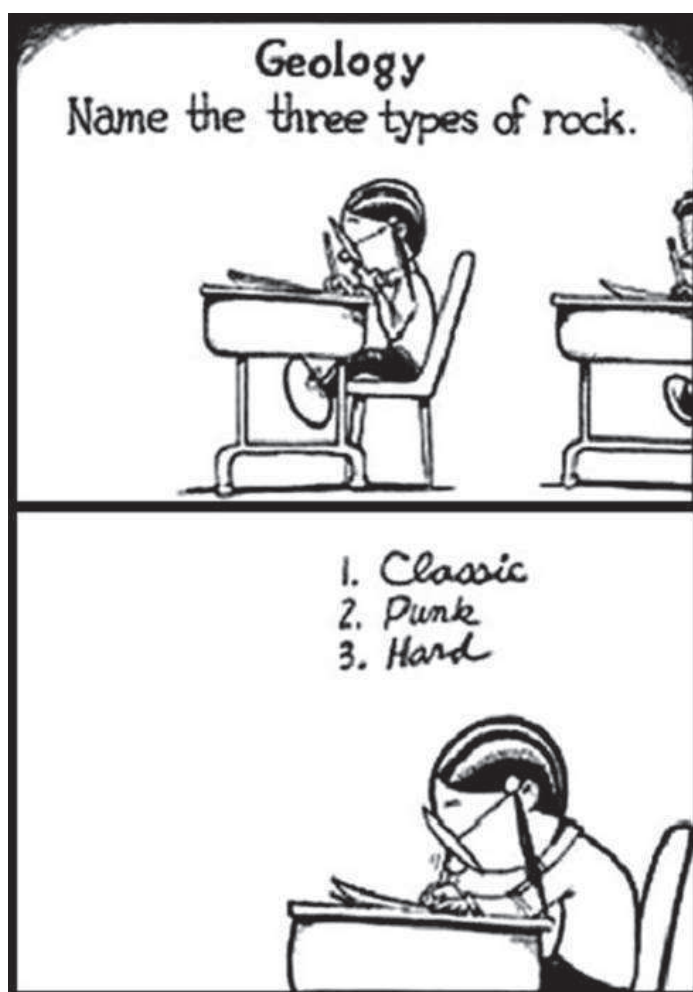
Vice-chair: Gordy Ley

Secretary: Pat Minnick

Treasurer: John Boswell

Member-at-Large: Glen Sarvis

Member-at-Large: Steve Isch



Early Vertical Caving Experiences

Terry McClanathan NSS 12103

I disengaged from the rope and balanced on a narrow ledge to adjust my padding. As I glanced up at the already diminishing point of light which marked my entry, then down at the boulder strewn floor dimly lit by the light filtering in from the two large flanking holes above me, a fleeting thought that this was a precarious perch flashed across my mind. I purposely stepped back into the manila line, wound it around my right thigh, then up over my left shoulder and down my back to my right side. Summoning up courage I didn't really feel, I gingerly inched my way out over the ledge into nothingness.

The rope dug into the thick pad jammed down into the top of my trousers creating too much friction to slide freely. I had to feed it jerkily, and each lift of the rope with my right breaking hand produced a disconcerting bounce. Once in freefall, the rope started to spin madly. The receding walls raced by in a nauseating blur comparable to the graveyard scene near the end of the movie Good, Bad, and The Ugly. The possibility that I might pass out from dizziness, slip from the rope, and plunge nearly a hundred feet to a very bad ending was not entirely improbable. I closed my eyes against the impending vertigo and continued my descent.

Rewind back a few months. It was 1969, sophomore year at Frostburg State College (now University) in the mountains of western Maryland. We'd been caving about a year. Armed with two books by William E. Davies, *Caves of Maryland* and *Caverns of West Virginia*, we were totally enthralled by our new found extra-curricular activity. I suppose it was just inevitable that in our quest to see more and better caves we would eventually find ourselves drooling over the prospect of a trip to legendary

caves like Hellhole or Schoolhouse (both were still pretty much open at that time).

Our dilemma was that at this time there were no cavers at Frostburg or anywhere nearby that we could learn from. We found a book in the school library on early mountaineering techniques and taught ourselves the art of body rappelling. We started out on the three-high tiered pyramid beds in our dorm room (we had a four man room), then on the same day graduated to the walnut tree in the parking lot behind the dorm, which we later saved (at least temporarily) from the imminent destruction of being paved over by staging a perch-in among its sprawling branches. The following day we ventured up into the strip mined hillside above the college to practice in the slag pits, but repetitive pounding by falling shale debris convinced us of our folly, and we finally settled on an abandoned sandstone quarry in a nearby community in our efforts to attain mastery of the body rappel.

We experienced many and varied adventures in that old quarry. One of the more memorable was the time my sweater (it was always either frigid or chilly around Frostburg) bunched up on the rope as I was at the midpoint of a ninety foot freefall, stopping me cold. Not to worry, I simply whipped out penknife and proceeded to carve up said sweater. Of course on a loaded manila rope, it doesn't take much imagination to figure out what soon transpired. My eyes grew in proportion to the mushrooming exploding fibers, but the sweater was free, albeit in tatters, and I hastened to the bottom with only minor rope burns, and some not so minor heart palpitations.

Okay, I know that by 1969 more modern rappelling devices existed, but we knew nothing concerning that. I often joked that within the space of about two years, we progressed through

about twenty years of evolution in caving techniques. There was simply no one around to teach us better. At that time the NSS office was still in suburban D. C., and to become a member you needed sponsorship by a member, hence a classic Catch 22.

We persevered though. Our equipment in those days consisted of, except for our brass justrites, not a single piece of metal. We rappelled on half inch manila rope and used quarter inch manila slings for prusiks. We used the bed matts from our dorm room as pads by stuffing them down into the thighs of oversized pants. A shower towel placed beneath a shirt served as a shoulder pad, but tended to slip at the most inopportune times. And we practiced a lot.

Now you'd think our many wanderings through the mountains of West Virginia would have brought us into contact with cavers more "up to date" than we were. This did happen upon occasion, but strangely those cavers we met in the field seemed to want to avoid us. I think they were hoping we would just go away, or perhaps they were anxiously awaiting reading about us in the next NSS News Accident issue so they could regale their friends about the time they actually met those Neanderthal cavers.

Well, despite all our antiquated techniques, we never did make it into the accident issue. I guess the cave gods do really watch over idiots and buffoons. In time we became enlightened to racks and mechanical ascenders, but I still reflect back to those early years with a pleasant shiver and a slight rush. To quote Robert Duvall in his deathbed scene from Lonesome Dove, "life sure was a hoot". □

New Estimate: Up to 6.7 Million Bats Killed by WNS

Caving News

Earlier this year the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced that their biologists now estimate that at least 5.7 million to 6.7 million bats have now died from white-nose syndrome since it first appeared in New York in 2006.

Estimating the total number of bats that succumbed to the disease has been a difficult task for researchers because population counts for of the many common bat species, such as the little brown bat, were never a priority in the past.

This lack of information led to the commonly heard estimate of "more than a million" dead bats that has been restated thousands of times since 2009.

During the 2012 Northeast Bat Working Group (NEBWG) in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, more than 140 government biologists and bat researchers worked together to, among other things, provide an update on the estimated of bats that white nose syndrome has claimed.

In order to improve future estimates, one of the goals from the U.S. national WNS response plan, which was developed last May 2011 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, was to establish more consistently in the reporting of bat populations.



Astronauts Complete Underground Training

September 22, 2012



Cosmonaut Nikolai Tikhonov on his way back to Earth's surface after spending six days underground as part of ESA's CAVES course.

After a six-day mission underground, the team of astronauts who took part of in the European Space Agency's (ESA) CAVES 2012 training course have returned to the surface.

CAVES, an abbreviation of Cooperative Adventure for Valuing and Exercising human behavior and performance Skills, is a program that helps prepare astronauts to work together safely and effectively in solving problems in a difficult environment.

Last month we were lucky enough to have course designer Loredana Bessone write an article highlighting some of the lessons the course hoped to instill in its attendees.

This year's course once again took places in the Sa Grutta caves of Sardinia, Italy. It brought together an international team of astronauts from USA, Japan, Canada, Russia and Denmark who spent their time underground exploring and surveying, conducting speleological research, and testing wireless communication equipment on loan from CNSAS, the Italian alpine and speleological rescue organization.

CAVES is perhaps the most physically demanding astronaut training that I have taken part in, and perhaps also the most rewarding. Andreas Mogensen, ESA Astronaut

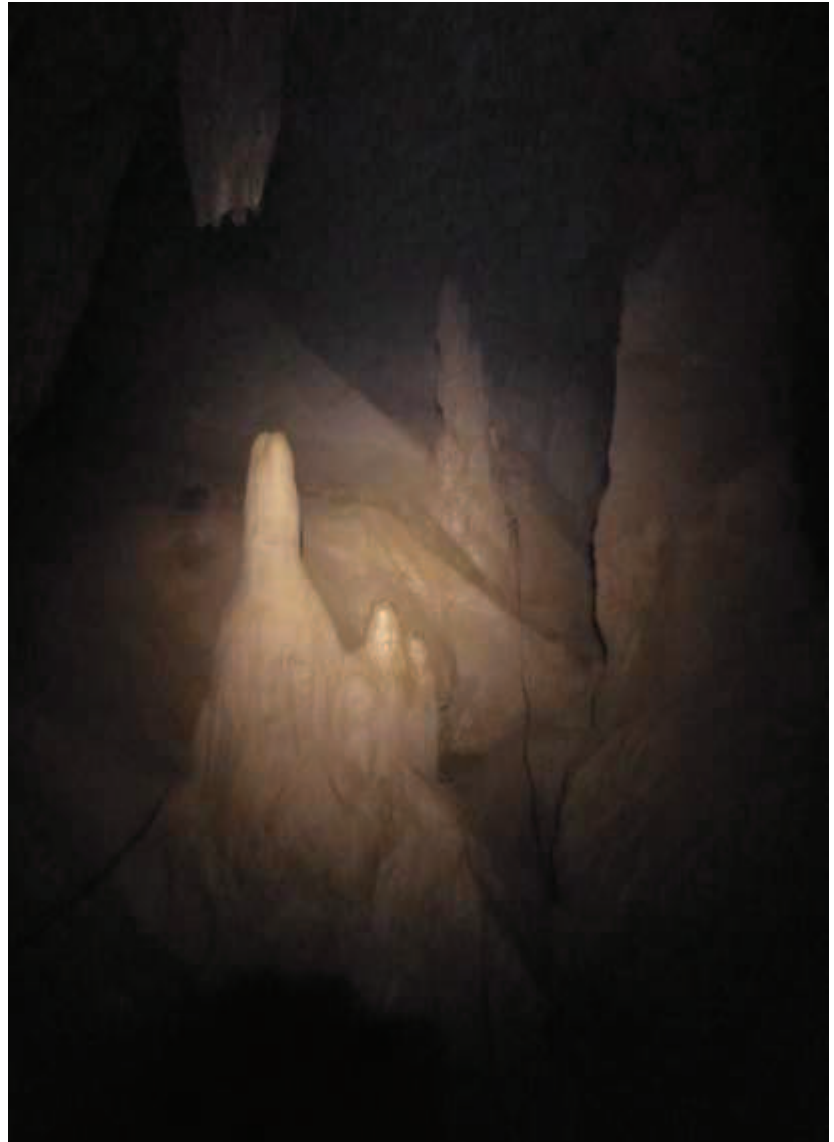
[Cavenauts return to Earth](#)

[European Space Agency]

Welsh Run Cave

October 5, 2012 by Jake Troup

Ken and Gordy decided to check out Welsh Run Cave, and seeing as Fridays are lax and it was close, I decided to go along. In little time we found the cave entrance hidden off the gravel road about 50 yards into the woods. Seeing as it was a fifteen foot drop (*well, maybe it was only eight feet, just looked like fifteen when peering in from outside*) in which we were unfamiliar, Gordy decided to drop his cable ladder. Once inside, it was wet and slightly muddy as most caves are. We all dropped in and just took in the cave before we started exploring. Naturally, we were in the cave no more than 5 minutes before Gordy



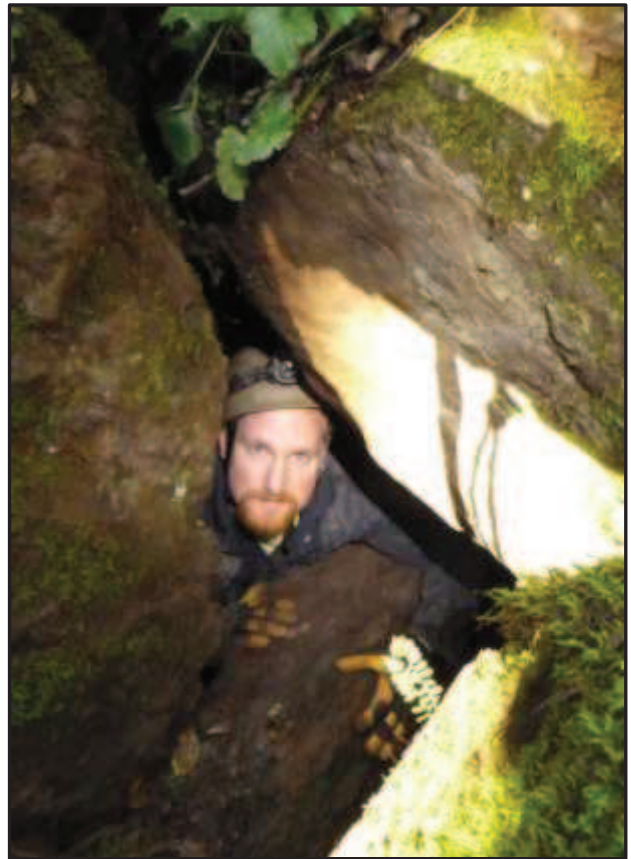
pulled out his camera and starting going to town as Ken and I would expect nothing less. He was intent on getting some good photos of the deep water beneath us. Ken and I decided to start exploring, only to find that this was a small cave. Though small, it was beautiful and unique as all caves are. After some brief

Main Canyon passage with high ceiling & deep water pools. Photo by Gordy Ley

exploration, Gordy took several more pictures of us, and we headed for a small passage. The passage that I initially attempted was tight, probably 12 inches of room, and slightly downhill. I just couldn't get myself mentally comfortable with the downhill squeeze without a rope! Gordy attempted it as

well only to agree with wanting a rope. Perhaps another visit back with a rope is in order to get a better look at the water flowing beneath us. All in all, it was a great way to spend an hour to get an underground fix!

Addendum: It had been over 20 years since I was in this cave. Gordy said it was 15+ years for him. The main room was much more voluminous than I'd remembered and the side passage crawlways were smaller than I remembered. It was hard to believe that I had made my way down to the lower stream passage. It looked quite intimidating. Even Gordy was hesitant to do it without a rope tied around his ankle in case he needed to be pulled out. Need to go back with a slender caver to lead on the crawl. *Ken Tayman*



Jake climbing out of slightly vertical entrance *Photo by Gordy*



Gordy attempting to back down side passage crawl to lower stream passage. He had to abort due to lack of desire *Photo by Ken T.*



Hennigh Cave, PA

Hennigh Cave

November 17, 2012 by Barry Duncan

On Nov. 17, 2012, Barry Duncan, Ken Tayman , John Boswell, Gordy Ley and Steve and Katie went up near Centre Hall, Pa to do a small cave called Hennigh Cave. It is located 8.5 miles East of Centre Hall, Pa. on Rt. 45. I think we got there about 12 noon and after getting permission we hike about .5 miles to the cave. Since I was there before, there wasn't much of a problem finding it.

The cave has two entrances. One is a vertical drop of 20 feet and the other is not. One by one we dropped the pit except Ken. He went in the other entrance. The cave consist of walking and crawling passages.



Katie's first in cave rappel. *Photo by Gordy Ley*



Barry doing short drop into Hennigh *Photo by Gordy Ley*

I think there was more walking. While we were exploring the cave, we took the opportunity to take a few pictures of this cave. Even though this was a small cave, I think the group of cavers was impressed with the beauty of this cave. After spending about two hours in the cave we climb out. Two of us didn't do the climb out. The other entrance is a crawl upward for about 20 feet to get out.□

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FRANKLIN COUNTY GROTTOS



CAVE EVOLUTION