The Franklin County Grotto Speleo-Schedule is published once per month, after the monthly meeting. It summarizes topics discussed at the monthly meeting and includes a calendar of upcoming events. It may also include articles, pictures and comments that did not make it into the Cumberland Valley Caver, our newsletter that is only published quarterly. This publication also offers the opportunity to showcase more members and caving activities on the cover. Meetings are held 7:30 PM at the Franklin Fire Department, 138 W. King St (at Franklin St), Chambersburg, PA. 17201. Visitors are welcome, Cave trips, projects and caving events are planned at these meetings. Contact Franklin County Grotto at FCG@KARST.ORG or any of the above officers for additional information.

Cover Photo: Ken Tayman, pushing out old tire from recently reopened McDowell Cave.  

Photo by: Gordy Ley
Notes from July 16, 2012 meeting: Members present: Ken Tayman, Pat Minnick, Howard & Diane White, John Boswell, Don Arrowood, Ken Jones, Dane Wagle, Gordy Ley, Todd Feasley, Ted Valcis and new member Jake Troup

Treasurer’s Report: Balance $3254.42 as of 7/16/2012
Cave Bucks collected: $20
($18 + $20 on hand= $38 on Hand)*

*Cave Bucks are used to cover expenses for fieldwork or cave digs

Caversburg Sink: As of June 18, Ken T, and Jake Troup Performed lock maintenance, and picked up trash. Checked water level at about 27’

Byrd Run Clean-up: July 21, 2012: Have 17 signed up. Plan to remove log jam from stream, remove old ladder from Caversburg Sink, pick up trash along stream, have hotdogs, sodas and watermelon. Then afterwards go caving in Walnut Ridge Cave just north of Caversburg (see attached note)

Carnegie Cave: geocache log near entrance and mailed to Ken T


Vertical Practice: Pat/Gordy will run vertical practice Sat, July 28 at Shaffer Rocks, 0800 till noon(?) bring helmet, gloves. This is morning of picnic. Also train-up for upcoming vertical trip to Friar’s Hole in Sep. Contact Pat if coming patame@pa.net

Cumberland Valley Caver: June issue available online at the FCG website http://www.karst.org/fcg/CVC_Vol13_I2.pdf

Corker Hill/Frustration Pit: Ken J and Don got together with owner and FCG has offered to be point of contact for access to these caves, using our discretion as to who gets access. Corker Hill access is more restrictive due to more technical entrance. The owner requests park at road & walk-in, no Sunday caving, and FCG, on behalf of the owner, will encourage good caving techniques regarding equipment, conservation and discretion when changing clothes. A waiver is being developed because the owners do not want any liability. An email to fcg@karst.org is first step to gaining access.

NSS Convention 2012: Had some really sunny weather, cars crushed, power outages, Also Gordy led several trips. Pat, Anne, Glen, Gordy, Stitch, & The Shocks all attended. Had a really good time!!!

NSS Convention 2013 Shippensburg, PA: Planning is well underway. Pat attended planning meeting. Things should pick up speed. Looks like MAKC will be doing pre-convention camp

FCG Picnic July 28-29
At Rouzerville Hunt Club: Vertical practice, food, fire, sleepover, Howard’s noise device, drink and midnight hike
See PICNIC paragraph on next page

Fieldwork: Contact Don or Gordy if interested in doing some field work or cave digs. Notices will go out via FCGList

Fall Mar 2012: September 28-30, Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA Hosted by Greater Allentown Grotto, see attached flyer.

Bat Detector Box: decided to purchase the “Baton” from John Chenger with his $25 discount from list price. John Boswell will order and try to have it at the picnic.

Big Ridge: There was a trip into Big Ridge. Refreshed contacts with the owner, & took his son into the cave. Looks like there will be access in the future. Will try to get grotto trip led by Pat on the schedule perhaps in the spring.

Friar’s Hole: vertical (97’ plus 60’), long trip in September. Must do for new members. Also new members must do vertical practice sessions if going. This is a grotto trip. contact POC Ken T at ktayman@karst.org if interested

Speleo-Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TBD</th>
<th>My Cave (John) plan B Simmons-Mingo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 20-22</td>
<td>Karst-O-Rama at Great Saltwater Cave Preserve in Mt. Vernon, KY! <a href="http://www.karstorama.com">www.karstorama.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>Burd Run Cleanup: at Caversburg Sink With trip into Walnut Ridge Cave afterwards See notes next page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28-29</td>
<td>Grotto Picnic @ Rouzerville Hunt Club See note next page POC Pat Minnick <a href="mailto:patame@pa.net">patame@pa.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A 2B</td>
<td>Flemings Trough Day Trips wet trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>McAllisterville Day trip POC John Boswell <a href="mailto:boswellemail@yahoo.com">boswellemail@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Regular monthly meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 30-Sep 3</td>
<td>OTR – don’t wait to apply for TRA membership See notes next pages...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14-16</td>
<td>Friar’s Hole vertical trip Stream Entrance/Saltwater thru trip Fri evening Crookshank/Rubber Chicken/Snedegars Sat plus Toothpick on Sunday POC Ken T <a href="mailto:ktayman@karst.org">ktayman@karst.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 17</td>
<td>Regular monthly Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 28-30</td>
<td>Fall MAR, Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA Hosted by Greater Allentown Grotto See page 5 for details and links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct TBD</td>
<td>Mystic Cave Contact POC Barry Duncan at <a href="mailto:formations@earthlink.com">formations@earthlink.com</a> if interested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Regular monthly meeting nominate 2013 officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>33rd Annual Bridge Day Festival, New River Gorge <a href="http://www.officialbridgeday.com">www.officialbridgeday.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Regular monthly Meeting elect 2013 Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
<td>No Meeting Merry Christmas!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2013</td>
<td>TBD Grotto New Years Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>Regular monthly Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 25-27</td>
<td>Tentative: 5th annual winter trip various mapping projects open for participation <a href="http://www.varegion.org/var/regEvents.shtml">http://www.varegion.org/var/regEvents.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 5-9, 2013</td>
<td>NSS Convention, Shippensburg Univ, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY TRIPS</td>
<td>McAllisterville, Fleming Trough, Mystic, Big Ridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cleversburg Sink

Current water level

As of June 18, 2012, the water level in Cleversburg Sink was:

- Up to the old gate
- >>>In the entrance room<<<
- Top of ladder
- Mid-ladder
- 3rd rung of ladder
- Base of ladder
- Knee deep
- Sand room sump
- Dry

Water is about 27 feet deep,
Checked by: Ken T and Jake Troup

### FCG Picnic
July 28-29
Rouzerville Hunt club.
Bunks available for overnight stay.
Campfire.
Fried Chicken & facilities provided

Please bring a covered dish to share.
BYOB

Show up no earlier than 3:00 PM on Sat
Howard’s new multifunctional potato canon
Gordy’s carbide cannon noise makers
$4 for diner $5 for breakfast,
Kids 12 & under free

Pat will do vertical practice at Shaffer Rocks @ 08:00 let him know if you are coming to practice

Please let Diane
mtnflower@embarqmail.com or
Anne at patanne@pa.net if you are coming

For GPS users, the picnic address is:
4175 Cold Springs Road
Fayetteville, PA 17222

### OLD TIMERS REUNION
August 30-September 3, 2012

Old Timers Reunion (OTR) is one of the largest if not the largest gathering of cavers in the world. It occurs once a year on our private campground with well over 1000 people in attendance. Admission to the event is restricted to TRA members or their guests. TRA is the membership organization that manages the day to day business outside of OTR. Each regular TRA member is allowed up to 2 guests. Each person attending the event must be registered and pay a registration fee. If you are a caver and would like to attend, you will need to apply for membership. New membership applications must be completed by July 31. NOTE: If you attend as a guest, you will need a sponsor and will pay additional fee.

Franklin County Grotto always has a good turnout for OTR. If you plan to attend, please note that Howard White has always been the first person to show up at the OTR site (noon on Thursday) and he needs to know if you are camping in the FCG area, so he will know how much camping space to occupy. If he doesn’t occupy a campsite for you, there may not be enough room for you to pitch a tent. Also, there is a lot of work involved in staking out a camp and putting up the shelter. Anyone going should consider early arrival on Thursday so they can assist. The only way to reserve space is to actually occupy it with tents, shelter and or cars. Contact Howard White (717) 423-6005, railfan@embarqmail.com THIS IS A FUN WEEKEND!!

http://www.otr.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=1&Itemid=76

### Cleversburg Sink: Burd Run Cleanup
July 21, 2012

Franklin County Grotto will coordinate a trash pickup on Burd Run. This stream runs through the park and is the source of the water in Cleversburg Sink Cave. The plan to police the stream from where it enters the park near the township headquarters all the way past Carnegie Cave entrance back to the road. We can use the township dumpster to get rid of the trash. We will have some Hot Dogs and sodas for the participants. Also cave trip to Walnut Ridge afterwards. POC Ken Tayman at ktayman@karst.org Thank You
Welcome to the 53rd Ye Olde Timers Reunion – OTR 2012.

Dear Ye, Hear ye! This Labor Day weekend prepare thy self for a different kind of renaissance experience. The royal court invites you to join in and pay tribute to the days of yore and experience a renaissance like no other. You can expect to see damsels in distress, fire breathing dragons, knights in shining armor, peasants wondering the street, return of the virgins, castles in the mist and the whole original cast of Monty Python and the Holy Grail! (Well that might be stretching it.)

It is Friday night in the month of August of the year 2012. Anticipation grows, as all eyes gaze upward to the sky as we experience the very first blue moon ever to occur during OTR. Probably the most spectacular and rarest event would be if the moon was actually blue in color, but if swallows can carry coconuts, who knows?

The Knights of the Blue Moon adds a little spice and off color humor with a special tribute to the 35th anniversary of the release of the movie, Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

I hope to see you there.

Charles Williams
(OTR Chair)

Early Arrival/Late Departure Policy: OTR begins on Thursday August 30th this year. We do not receive rights to the campground until noon, when the gates open. Registration went smoothly last year and I will do everything I can to get you through registration quickly again this year so you can enjoy your weekend. The line that forms outside of the gate prior to noon is a traffic hazard so please be considerate of our neighbors and try and arrive after the noon gate opening. OTR closes at noon on Monday September 3, and the only people on the site before and after OTR are those who have received permission in advance to setup or cleanup.

Registration: Registration will be open around the clock from noon Thursday to midnight Saturday. Staff and hours may reduce after midnight Thursday and Friday. Registration closes at midnight on Saturday and reopens at 8:30 AM Sunday. OTR closes completely to new registrants and guests at 8:00 PM on Sunday. If you plan on arriving after 8:00 PM on Sunday, you must make prior CONFERRED arrangements with our registration coordinator, Leanne Bailey (leane@otr.org) and you must pay the full registration fee for Sunday. It is your responsibility to make these arrangements and receive confirmation if you will be arriving after registration closes. If your name is not on their list, you are not confirmed. Don’t wait until the last minute.

We have been able to maintain the same entrance fee as the last few years. Please note the rate for pre-registration is good for whichever day you are arriving.

Fast Pass Registration is only available if you bring your TRA membership card and the bar code on the back.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012 OTR Registration Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>18+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-reg</td>
<td>$47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>$43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>$37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>$39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants</td>
<td>under 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Day starts at 4:00 AM

The Knights of the Blue Moon
WWW.OTR.ORG

Day Passes: Passes are good for the day purchased from 8:30 AM until 6:00 PM. To stick around after 6:00 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. I can’t emphasize enough how important this is to 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. Children who are active cavers may apply for their own membership ($10) http://membership.otr.org.

Photo ID: You must provide legal photo ID at registration, even if you do not intend to consume any alcoholic beverages on site. The OTR staff is authorized to request and see ID of any individual on-site. You MUST be 21 or over 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 US banks. OTR charges $30 on returned checks and reports nonpaying registrants to the authorities. OTR does not accept registration payment with credit or debit cards at OTR.

Drinking Age is 21: The drinking age for alcoholic beverages in West Virginia is 18 years and older. Underage drinking is a concern and it is taken seriously. Please be considerate. Underage drinking puts us all at risk. Underage drinking is not permitted, not tolerated at OTR.

Pets: No pets are permitted at OTR, including the gate area or chained to/inside vehicles at the gate.
TRA Membership: If you need a TRA membership you have until July 31 to submit your paper work. The cost is $10 and you can download forms at http://membership.otr.org. Important to Note: if you were a junior member or family dependent and are now over 18, you will need to upgrade your membership to a regular member to avoid paying guest fees. Please see the web site for more information and forms or contact Scott Baker (membership@otr.org) the membership chair.

New Membership Cards: At OTR 2011 new TRA membership cards were handed out for use in pre-registration and fast pass onsite registration. Contact Scott Baker (membership@otr.org) if you did not receive one.

FREE TRA Membership: If you are a caver and have been putting off submitting your TRA membership, now is the time to do it! Back by popular demand and for a limited time only, TRA is offering a discount on registration for this year’s reunion (OTR 2012) when you become a TRA member. Until July 31, 2012 your application process will be streamlined if you use the new 2012 EZ forms. The number of people needed to sponsor you is reduced, and at OTR you will be refunded your $10 membership fee. See http://FreeMembership.otr.org for more information.

Music at OTR: Last year we formed a music search committee so that more members could have input into the selection of music at OTR. I’m happy to say that thanks to these contributions we have the following music line up with outstanding performances by Hucklebuck Friday night in the pavilion. Saturday night, with over 15 albums and 25 “Wammie” awards we have the Funky Roots music with Scorching Guitar of the Tom Principato Band. Sunday at the river stage is the traditional bluegrass band “Half-Lit” playing traditional instruments with searing virtuosity and harmonies that blend like scotch and soda. Sunday night in the Pavilion we have DJ Matt Snyder to mix it up. At Cooters we will have The Shanty Irish and from Chicago, Grateful Gary. Unfortunately, after many years our late night entertainment DJ’s Johnny Parsons and Debbie St. Pierre won’t be able to make it to OTR. For anyone who would like to break into the music business, now is the time. We are taking requests for late night DJs’, contact the OTR chair (chair@otr.org) if you are interested.

Contests: Speleo Olympics will again be running Friday through Sunday and will feature your favorite caver contests. Back by popular demand, the Home Brew Beer judging, this year’s flavor will be a 13C Oatmeal Stout. The homemade wine judging will be provided by the Forks of Cheat Winery. Keep a keen eye out for the Knights who say Ni campsite bar judging, and the merry minstrel’s campsite decoration review.

Jousting: Jousting is an ancient sport of skill and concentration that requires exact eye hand coordination while riding upon a galloping steed. Old Timers Jousting has a little more of a caver flair to it. Instead of a steady you will be strapped into a zip line harness. This will be as much a spectator event as it will be for participants. You will find that you use many of the same skills as you charge forward toward your goal.

DooDah Parade: The DooDah parade has been going on since we moved to our current site, over 26 years ago and last year was one of the largest turn out yet. Just think what this year will bring. Watch for killer rabbits, Brave Sir Robin, Witches, Vestal Virgins, taunting Frenchmen or the more traditional knights and princesses. Theme related floats should be a spectacle worth waking up for on Saturday morning.

Feast of the Round Table: It’s more like a feast with tables in the round. We are looking to build on the success of the Chili Cook-off a couple of years ago. Instead of chili the honored chef’s will prepare a renaissance stew. Come prepared to taste the samples and vote your favorite dish into the winners circle.

Campground-wide Search for the Holy Grail: The Halloween campground wide Trick-or-Treating last year was such a huge success, it gave everyone a chance to visit with neighbors, meet new friends, see the decorated campsites and just have fun. It was an event that young and old could participate in together. The costumes and campsite decorations were outstanding. Is it possible to recreate the same level of involvement again this year? Let’s find out. This year, Saturday night is the Search for the Holy Grail. All around the campground are clues that will lead you on your quest. You will want to visit other campsites, meet with travelers, provide treats to entice people to visit your camp, and to exchange their clues with you. A special prize awaits those who participate.

Introduction of the Virgins
Bring out your grotto virgins (first time OTR attendees) to be introduced to the membership before the bonfire lighting on Thursday. We will have some “fun” quests that will help you familiarize them with our little family.

The Royal Ball: Saturday night in the pavilion will be a variation on our usual party. Wear your costumes; bring your masks and disguises. You will never know whom you are dancing with.

Princesses Guinevere’s Little Kiddie Camelot. Join the other Knights and Princesses in a variety of fun kids’ activities and crafts. Watch for the ever-popular Batman the Magician as he amazes the crowd with his slight-of-hand.

Vendors: If you wish to sell anything at OTR you must make prior arrangements with the Vendors Coordinator Norma Peacock (sweetbat1@aol.com) – (256) 996-7180. Wednesday is setup day for vendors; please don’t arrive earlier. Food concessions will be provided by Greg Miller. 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. Many caves with a 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. If you are planning some caving during OTR, you should practice proper cave gear disinfection procedures before and after entering caves in the area. Be sure to let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. As always practice safe caving. Closed cave list: ClosedCaves.otr.org

Awards Ceremony: The awards presentations will be held on Sunday night. They will include the presentation of the TRA awards, contest awards, election results, door prizes and preview of OTR 2013. We will have a variety of door prizes to give out this year. Everyone who attends the awards ceremony is eligible to win. Make sure you don’t miss out on these valuable prizes.

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 / T-shirt sales.

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 check-in, First-aid Staff, Sauna support, Audio/Video, IT, Contests, Daily Clean up, Wild side, Security, Cooters and BrewCrew. If you would be interested in any of these areas, see the volunteer section on otr.org for more information and contacts. Sign up lists are online for Sauna, Gate and First-aid Staff.

Remember OTR is a cover event - Please sponsor only covers.

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

- Note: The information contained here is subject to change –

2012.OTR.ORG
2012 MAR Fall Field Meet
September 28-30, 2012
Crystal Cave
Kutztown, PA
Hosted by
Greater Allentown Grotto

Registration Fee includes:
* Primitive camping on site.
* Friday Night Cave movies and popcorn (weather permitting)
* Catered Dinner Saturday Night
* Great Door Prizes
* Soft Drinks included (BYOB)
* Bonfire Saturday Night
* Guidebook with updated information
* Guided and Self-guided wild cave trips (ring clean cave gear)
* Guided trips into Crystal Cave (Limited Numbers Sat morning)

Featuring:
* PCC Sunday Breakfast & Meeting
* Event T-shirts
* Pre-Registration discount - Absolutely No Pets

Details and Registration Forms located here:
http://www.caves.org/region/mar/2012_fall_mar_fieldmeet.htm

Directions

From Allentown: 22/78 West to 100 South to 222 South to Virginville exit, follow signs for 5 miles.

From Harrisburg: 78 East to exit 35 Lenhartsville, 143 South, follow signs for 10 miles.