

Carbide Dump



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The *Carbide Dump* is published monthly by the Blue Ridge Grotto of the National Speleological Society in Roanoke, Virginia. Distribution date is approximately the second week of each month. An issue may be skipped if insufficient material is received. Contributions of articles and artwork are invited and will be gratefully acknowledged. Art work originals will be returned. Contributions should be sent to the editor. Regular and associate grotto membership (\$10) includes a *Carbide Dump* subscription. Subscriber rate is \$10.00. Exchanges with other grotto and caving organizations are invited. Direct exchange mail to Mary Sue Socky.

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The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 6:30p at Jersey Lily's Roadhouse, 1650 Braeburn Dr. Salem, VA 24153. See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue.

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Contributors: David & Mary Sue Socky, Marian McConnell, Meredith Weberg, Martin DiLeggi, Nick Socky, Pud Zwolinski, Paul Berger, Bru Randall, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Carpenter-Swago (WV) trunk on a survey trip with Paul Walko, Aimee Ballard, & Dave Socky. Photo by Dave Socky

CAVERS CALENDAR

Feb 17: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Mar 17: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Apr 21: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

April 22: VAR Earth Day Restoration at Apple Farm. VAR sinkhole clean up near Covington, VA. More info coming soon. Save the Date!

May 7-13: WKU Field Studies, Karst Hydrogeology class. This course will be held at the CRF Hamilton Valley Research Station near Mammoth Cave National Park, KY and although field-work will focus in the Park area, discussion about urban karst environmental problems will include a field trip to nearby Bowling Green and/or Horse Cave, Kentucky. To register visit: karst-fieldstudies.com

May 19: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

May 19-21: Spring VAR. Thorn Spring Campground near Franklin, WV. Hosted by BATS. See p. 17 in this issue

May 26-29 Speleofest held at Lone Star Cave Preserve, Bonnierville KY. <http://speleofest.com/>

June 16: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

June 19 to 23: WVACS Convention Pre-Camp, at the WVACS Fieldstation north of Frankford in Greenbrier County, WV. For more information, contact Jessica Reep at j.reep@aol.com

June 26-30: NSS Convention, Elkins, West Virginia. Registration is open! For more information, see their website at <https://nss2023.caves.org>

July 14-16: Karst O Rama held at Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, KY. <https://karstorama.com>

Aug 4-6: Indiana Cave Capers. Click [here for the web site.](#)

Long Cave Lists

A legacy of Bob Gulden, now maintained by Paul Berger

<https://cave-exploring.com/index.php/long-and-deep-caves-of-the-world/>

Treasurer's Report 2/6/2023

Cave Bucks	\$ 40.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 104.12
General	\$3,959.97
Total	\$4,107.05

BRG Meeting & Trips Notice

The **February 17, 2023** meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held at **Jersey Lily's Roadhouse 1650 Braeburn Dr, Salem, VA 24153**. Dinner or appetizers with socializing starts at 6:30pm with the meeting starting soon after.

The program this month will be a slide show on mountain climbing in the high Atacama desert of Chile, S.A., by Dave Socky (Not caving, but still cool!).

Grotto Trip

New River Cave, VA

Date & Time: Saturday, February 18, 2023. Meet at Hanging Rock Orange Market at **8:30 am**.

Leader: Doug Feller

Coordination: Susan Burr 540-580-9409
pondlady97@gmail.com

Requirements: Horizontal trip. If you wish to go, let Susan Burr know ASAP! Also, let Susan know if you need to borrow a helmet and/or light.

Limits: 10 cavers.

Description

This will be a horizontal cave trip. Not sure where we will go but probably to the waterfall, then maybe to see the pretties in the Forest Room. It will depend on the group & how well everyone is doing. Maybe we will try to explore someplace we haven't been before.

New River is an extensive, interesting cave with some really nice large walking passage, but also a lot of challenging sections. Besides the easy part of the cave, there are crawls, stoop walks, tight spots, slippery spots, and exposure in a few areas. There is the 'China Slide' to the lower levels and the stream passage to slog through on the

way to the waterfall. A handline assisted climb up the waterfall leads to a lot more cave, but to get to the majority of it, you must pass through a tight spot called the Tuxedo Junction. If your chest is thicker than 10 inches, you may not be able to get through. However, in the front section of the cave, there are many formations in some areas; unfortunately, vandalism has destroyed many of the more fragile speleothems. New River Cave is in better shape now than it has been in the past due to the conservation efforts of the NSS and the VPI Cave Club.

New River Cave is now owned by the NSS. Access is open to NSS and responsible cavers. Please contact NewRiverPreserve@caves.org for access. 🐾



Aaron Moses doing the waterfall climb in New River Cave in 2004. Photo by Dave Socky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRG Meeting Minutes – can be read on the BRG webpage at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org> under the 'BRG Organization' button.

NSS Membership:

Would you like to join or renew with the NSS? See this [link](#) for details.



Cave Bucks – Are voluntary donations from cavers who have recently been caving. Most people donate a few dollars for each cave trip they have been on. Then send the money where it will do some good and buy some caves!

Cave Conservation Events

Lynn Ott announced that **Cricket Maze Cave, WV**, will have an Open House in April or May 2023. TBA.

Bat Cave Closures - We are now in **Winter Bat Cave Closure**. Some designated caves are closed so bat species can have critical habitat to hiber-

nate. This closure affects some, but not all caves. If the cave you want to visit is closed, go elsewhere! There are thousands of caves in the Virginias.

- Winter closure for bat caves in **West Virginia is Sept 1—May 15.**
- Winter closure for bat caves in **Virginia is Oct 15 – April 15.**

Please respect all cave closures. 🐾

Membership

BRG has 54 members and 4 subscribers for 2023.

Be sure to pick up your membership packet before you leave the February grotto meeting. The remaining packets will be mailed.

Know of a potential caver? Bring them to a BRG meeting, sponsor them on a BRG activity, do lots of fun things with the best cavers around ~ 🐾



Surveying in McClung Cave, WV with Dave Socky, Matt Vest, and Sykes Richardson. Photo by Nick Socky

Padlock Cave

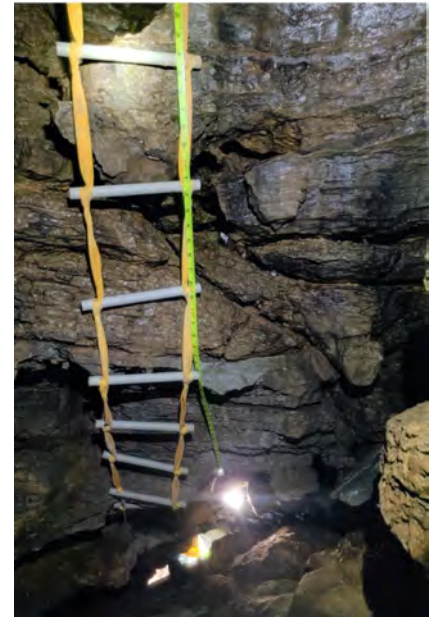
Botetourt County, VA

Martin DiLeggi

December 2022: Digging in the karst of Botetourt County, VA in the Purgatory Cave area. The photos here are from the new **Padlock Cave**.

It's slow going but we still have strong air. The entrance is now fixed to prevent water entry. The water never did back up when entering the cave, even after rains and flows.

We had to pull out a tire and some rocks, and create a ladder to negotiate the drop, but it's still going!



BRG Donations 2023

Here is a listing of cave and conservation organizations BRG has donated to from 2020 to 2022. We have also sent donations to the organizations pre 2020, those with no dollars for 2020 to 2022.

	<u>2020-2022</u>	<u>2023 (proposed)</u>
Virginia Cave Board	\$50	\$ 50
WV Cave Conservancy	\$370	\$ 100
SCCi	\$50	\$ 100
MAKC	\$135	\$ 100
NCRC (Eastern Region)	\$145	\$ 50
BCCS	\$25	
ACCA	\$75.00	
CaveSim	\$275.00	\$25.00
VAR		\$50.00
NSS		
Save the Caves		\$50.00
Cave Vandalism Deterrence		
WNS Fund		
VSS		
BCI		
WVACS		
	\$1125.00	\$525.00
	(\$375/year)	

Notes

Also, we sent a donation of \$100 in memory of John Fox to Cave Sim in 2022. Since CaveSim is now 'for profit', we should continue to support it, but with a \$50 cap. (Individuals continue to donate to CaveSim). For ACCA, we sent dues on 9/16/2022.

What do we want to do for this year? See the 2023 proposed column. Some organizations have said they are OK, and we can send less, or none. Some organizations appreciate our donations. They have stayed the same or we can send more.

BRG will have a discussion, and hopefully will decide our donation budget in February.



NSS Convention 2021 Trip—Weed California

By Pud Zwolinski

OMG. I just got done reading the March to May 2022 DC Speleograph. Imagine my shock when the first article I read was by Charles Kahn. The Charles Kahn. The one and only Charles Kahn that I am a founding member of the Charles Kahn Admiration Society.

Ever since I moved to Florida from Greenbrier County West Virginia, I've pretty much been out of the caving loop. Seeing that Charles is still an active caver prompted me to write about my trip to the cancelled NSS 2021 convention with my wife, Lyn.

In 2020, we had made plans to go to the NSS Convention in Weed, California. It had more bucket list places to go than the average convention, primarily because I hadn't been to that neck of the woods since 1969. We went to all the trouble of booking flights, getting a resort to stay in that was located near the convention site, getting various hotel reservations and a rental car.

Then the big bomb hit. COVID 19. And my dreams of Lava Beds National Monument started going down the drain. The NSS Convention was cancelled.

Fortunately, COVID 19 restrictions were eased, so Lyn and I decided to go anyways. We already had the reservations. Yes, we knew about the drought and heat wave the central valley was going through, and we also were tracking wildfires on this [website](#).

First thing we had to do was get there, so obviously we flew, arriving in San Francisco and picking up a rental car. Now I've lived in the DC area and north central New Jersey for many years, so I know traffic. However, there was no getting around getting out of SF without sitting in traffic for less than two hours just to go 20 miles.

Finally, we got across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and could proceed on to our first destination, Chico, CA. But first, we had to stop and get something to eat. Where you say? Why we went to In-N-Out Burger, a place that "they" all say is one of the best fast food burgers around. It was good, but it still doesn't beat Culver's.

We were driving until dusk, arriving at our hotel in Chico in temperatures that were still in the mid-90s. Our hotel gave

us two glasses of complimentary wine, so we went down the bar to enjoy ourselves. Two things happened while we were there. The first was a rainstorm, Chico's first in quite some time. And the second, the only other people in the bar area started talking and I couldn't help to overhear that they were visiting from Beckley, West Virginia.

From Chico, the first stop on the agenda was to visit Lassen Volcanic National Park. We did the Visitor Center thing and decided that we would have to skip the hike to Devil's Kitchen. Turns out there have been a lot of cars broken into at the trail head. We started with a trip to the Sulphur Works. Pics were boring, so I won't put you to sleep with them. The next stop was the hike to Bumpass Hell. No, we weren't going to visit Bill Biggers in Bumpass Virginia, we were going to Bumpass Hell. That hike wiped me out. Must be getting too old to do things like this.

We finished up driving the park's scenic highway and headed to Redding, our destination to explore Mount Shasta and the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. When you are at higher elevations, the heat isn't so bad, but when we got to Redding at 7:20 PM at night it was stifling. How bad you ask? Try 114 degrees F.



Okay, enough of the non-caving part of the trip. On to Weed.

Now obviously, this convention was staged just for old time hippy wannabes like myself.



First thing I had to do was get a tee shirt for my nephew which obviously glorifies the use of weed. Second stop was at the La Florista Cannabis a boutique shop for all things weed. First thing they did was card us to make sure we were old enough. And if that Gen Z security guard intimidated anyone, he was sadly mistaken, plus he looked too stoned to do anything.

Now what would we find in La Florista? First thing I observed was it is a cash-only business. My salesperson showed me samples I could buy, oils that could be bought, edibles, CBD oils, seeds, clones, clothes, you name it. I think they were disappointed when I told them I was past that stage of my life. That place even had a smoking bar with a smoke-tender in the back room. I did end up picking up some super-strength CBD oil for my aching chronic osteoarthritis.

Next stop was to drive up to the local airport to get another picture of Mount Shasta. It has a great view of the mountain from the north side. Remember that heat I was telling you about? Well almost all the snow on Mount Shasta was gone except for a small patch that could be observed on the northern slopes.

Now remember, this would have been the first day of Convention. Monday June 28th. The previous evenings had a lot of lightning. No rain, just lightning. So, what did we discover? A smoke plume of the start of the Lava Wildfire.



This wildfire would be the 2021 Convention disaster. The main road between the convention and Lava Beds National Monument ended up being close for the rest of the week. That wildfire went from June 25th, through

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

September 3rd. It ended up burning over 26,000 acres and definitely would of caused convention attendees to travel around Mt. Shasta to get to Lava Beds National Monument, CA.

Okay. Now we were ready to trek up to the Running Y Resort, located outside Klamath Falls, Oregon. It was perfectly located to visit Lava Beds National Monument, a place that was highly recommended to me by Dave Cowan. It was also a great location to go and visit Crater Lake, OR.

Now many of you know that I have herpetological tendencies. I have been known to stop and help turtles cross the road, identify dead snakes etc. So, imagine my delight when I had to pull a U-Turn on the road to Lava Beds National Monument to try and identify a DOR, that's Dead-On-Road in Herp terms. I was able to add a western coach whip snake to my life list. This trip is just getting better and better. Plus, all the Indian Paintbrush was in bloom at the time.

Essentially, Lava Beds NM has quite a number of lava tubs to explore. Now we've been following all WNS protection protocols, which includes lava tubes located within the park. Being as we only had two pair of shoes each worthy of going underground, we were limited to just two caves.

First up was an easy one. Probably the easiest. It was called **Mushpot**. Now remember, we are on our own caving, we only have one source of light each and we've never been to this cave. Plus, I doubt the park rangers would begin a search for us until after 5 PM, when they

got off, if we got lost. Boy was I nervous. First time, one source of light, no helmet. What was I getting myself into? Imagine my relief when I discovered that someone had marked the way out.



Sidebar: **Mushpot** is probably only 750' in length and is one of the "Least Challenging Caves" in Lava Beds National Monument.

Next up was a trip to **Skull Cave**. After all, what caver could resist saying they did a trip to Skull Cave? Not me. Imagine the creeps going up and down my spine when we got to the entrance and there was a Raven on its nest guarding the entrance. Picture sucks, so I won't bore you all with that picture.

Skull Cave is rather unique in that it is a cold air trap. Remember, we had been travelling in temperatures between 95-105 degrees F when we weren't in the mountains. Essentially, it is three lava tubes one on top of the other that traps cold air. When you get to the bottom of this easy cave (lots of CCC steps for safety), you discover an ice floor! Again, another "Least Challenging Cave" within the park.

Next up was a trip to Crater Lake, OR and then to Oregon Caves National

Monument. Oregon Caves was the only solutional cave we visited on this trip. It had a few things going for it. It wasn't crowded, it wasn't particularly difficult and it had pretties. Also, the drive to get there was nice from the main road. Unfortunately, my phone required charging so I can't bore you all with any pictures.

Okay. Now running out of time for our travels. Next up was a trip to see the Redwoods and take the Pacific Coast Highway from Crescent City, down through Humboldt County to Port Arena. If you haven't seen Redwoods, you really need to. We could of spent the entire trip just in that neck of the woods of California. It wasn't hot, it was only crowded on weekends and extremely peaceful.

From there, we had a quick visit with my cousin Johnathan and his wife Linda before we headed back to SF to leave. No, we didn't do any of the wine tours. Maybe next time.

Charles. I want to thank you for the inspiration to write my trip report. I know it wasn't as satisfying as a trip to Carnegie, but it was great to get to some places that were on the Bucket List.

Oh, BTW Charles. I want to thank you for the Hawaiian bank note again. It still makes me smile. And that's why I'm a charter member of the Charles Kahn Admiration Society. Hope to see you soon. Maybe at the VAR this spring.

Pud Zwolinski, NSS 25731



52 miles in McClung Cave, WV! (l-r): Dave Socky, Nick Socky, Matt Vest, and Sykes Richardson.

2023 NSS CONVENTION
JUNE 26-30, 2023 | ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

See <https://nss2023.caves.org/> for info on lodging, restaurants, and above ground activities. Registration is now open!

Continuing Bob Gulden's Legacy

By *Paul Burger*

Reprinted from the February 2023 NSS News, v81, n2, page 23.

Bob Gulden leaves behind a wonderful legacy of maintaining the long and deep caves lists for the caving community. Over the years, the site had expanded to include specific lists such as lava tubes, underwater caves, piping caves and others that do not fit into the category of traditional karst caves. He was just getting started with the lists of the largest rooms and passages in the world.

I fondly recall visiting and re-visiting Bob's site as I worked on projects in Lechuguilla and Wind Cave, helping them leap-frog each other on the list (and working in Jewel to keep that cave well ahead of both).

As someone who has benefited from these lists over the decades and watched projects that I've worked on move up (and sometimes down) these lists, I volunteered to keep this effort alive and maintain Bob's legacy. The updated lists can be found at:

<https://cave-exploring.com/index.php/long-and-deep-caves-of-the-world/>
or
<https://tinyurl.com/Long-DeepCaves>

I hope to add a form to the page that will let cavers submit updates and corrections directly to the page without having the site flooded with spam. For now, you can email me at:

Cavemonpaul@Hotmail.com

I have a longer-term goal of setting it up so that there can be more information and potentially photos related to each of the caves on the list, probably as a wiki-type site.



Short-term, I have been working to get all of the updates and corrections that have been flooding in integrated into the lists. I appreciate all of the work that cavers are doing to find errors and reconcile numbers; this would not work without such a strong, passionate community. I appreciate the opportunity to celebrate Bob's legacy in the same way I have benefited from his efforts over the years. 🐿

NCRC 2023 - Orientation to Cave Rescue

(from The West Virginia Caver, February 2023, Volume 41, number 1, page 17)

An **Orientation to Cave Rescue Class** will be presented by the Eastern Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission over the **April 21st to 23rd, 2023 weekend in Elkins, West Virginia**. The class will be hosted by the Mountain State Grotto and the Elkins Fire Department, and is designed for students that include cavers, emergency service personnel, and rescue-management personnel. Continuing Education Credit may be available.

This class is an introductory-level program that consists of both classroom instruction and field work in all phases of cave rescue. Some of the subjects covered will include the underground environment, extraction techniques, communication systems, medical management, operations, equipment, documentation, and response systems. The course will be conducted over a three-day period (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday). The first evening consists of classroom studies. The second day will consist of classroom studies and hands-on exercises. The third day will consist of a carefully staged mock exercise that will allow the students to participate in many of the functions that a cave rescue would require.

The course is physically demanding, and

the participants must be in good physical shape and sign a liability waiver. Those persons under 18 years of age must contact the Regional Coordinator prior to registering for the class.

The Friday and Saturday portions of the class will be held at the Elkins Fire Department building on 4th Street. Students are expected to arrive by 8:30 PM on Friday, April 21st, to check in and show that their gear has been cleaned per the requirements defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see <http://www.er-ncrc.org>). The Friday night class will begin as soon as the students' gear has been checked. The Saturday and Sunday classes will start at 8 AM. The Sunday mock rescue will take place in a cave that will not be announced until Sunday morning.

The registration fee for this course is \$60, which will include all the course materials and a BBQ lunch on Saturday. Camping is available at the Old Timers site in Dailey WV, and there are hotels and motels in Elkins WV for those wishing for that convenience.

The equipment required for the class includes an UIAA-rated caving helmet with a non-elastic chin strap and a quick release buckle (fire-type helmets are not

acceptable), three sources of light with a primary light that is helmet-mounted, sturdy boots with lug soles, leather-palmed gloves, rugged clothing appropriate for a damp, muddy 50° F cave, a small, rugged pack, a small personal first-aid kit, three garbage bags, and personal food and water for the Sunday mock rescue. Vertical equipment will not be required.

For more information regarding this class, contact Glen Hugus at 540-968-6381 or ford428cj@yahoo.com. For more information regarding the Eastern Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission or cave rescue in general, please contact the ER-NCRC Regional Coordinator Tony Smith at 540-828-4091 or eastern@ncrc.info

Registration: <https://ncrc-er.caves.org/events>



Vote for your Favorite Five

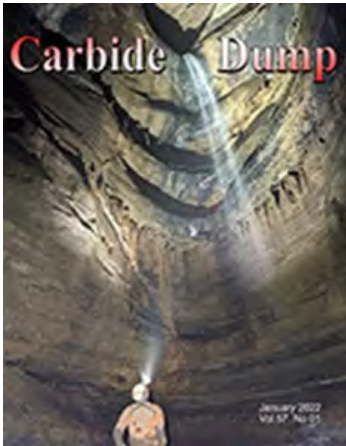
Every year, the NSS Convention offers a “Cover Art Contest”. Grottos submit their favorite covers from the previous year to be judged and selected for awards.

BRG covers know how to pick them! Most recently, the *CARBIDE DUMP* won an Honorable Mention award for its 2021 newsletter cover.

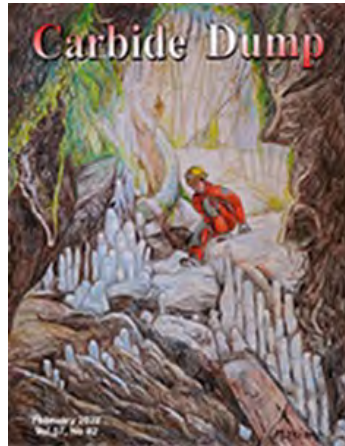
To be considered, a cover must be original, not previously used or reprinted. Covers may be photographic or non-photographic; a few other rules apply.

The covers are much more stunning in color – look at them on-line for the best viewing at <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>.

Below are covers from the 2022 *CARBIDE DUMPS* – Voting ends on April 21, 2023.



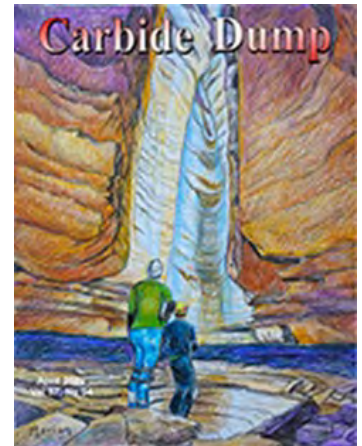
Jan 2022 v57 n1



Feb 2022 v57 n2



Mar 2022 v57 n3



Apr 2022 v57 n4



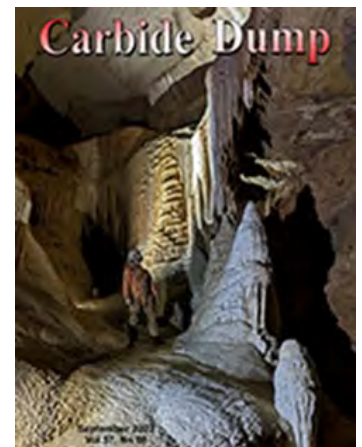
May 2022 v57 n5



June/July 2022 v57 n6



Aug 2022 v57 n7



Sept 2022 v57 n8



Oct 2022 v57 n9



Nov 2022 v57 n10



Dec 2022 v57 n11

Woohoo! Spring VAR!

May 19–21

Hosted by the Battlefield Area Troglodyte Society (BATS)

When: May 19–21, 2023

Where: Thorn Springs Campground near Franklin, WV

Cost:

- **Pre-registration Deadline April 30**
 - Saturday dinner included
 - Adults (aged 17+) \$30
 - Kids aged 6–16: \$22
 - Under 6 Free
- **At the Door:**
 - Saturday dinner **not** guaranteed, but we will try to order extra meals
 - Adults \$35
 - Kids 6–16: \$22
 - Under 6 Free



Camping:

- RV with Full Hookups: \$30/night. Pay Thorn Springs directly.
- Cabin Rental: \$5/person/night extra. Stove, fridge, showers. Bring your sleeping bag and towels. Each cabin sleeps 8–12.
- Tent camping included—set up behind buildings.

Coming Soon: Pre-registration form and payment info

Caving: Of course! Led trips or on your own. Trout Cave will be open!

Saturday Night: Dinner, program, and party in the large pavilion. Come ready to dance! Pre-register to guarantee dinner.



Sunday Morning: VAR business meeting: 9 a.m.
Grottos be sure to assign representatives to attend!

Share This Info With Cavers!