

Carbide Dump



October 2022
Vol 57, No 09

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.

EXCHANGE MAIL

Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018-5402
H: (540) 989-7693
email: sockvmss@cox.net

EDITORS

David & Mary Sue Socky
6572 Woodbrook Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018-5402
H: (540) 989-7693
email: sockvdr@cox.net or sockvmss@cox.net

TRIP COORDINATOR

Susan Burr
4544 Cordell Dr SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
H: 540-989-5809
email: pondlad97@gmail.com

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.

GROTTO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**Chairman**

Marian McConnell
C: 540-309-4707
marian.mcconnell@gmail.com

Vice-Chair

Lauren Appel
C: 804-937-5409
lucvchickenft3@gmail.com

Secretary

Mary Sue Socky
H: 540-989-7693
sockvmss@cox.net

Treasurer

David Socky
H: 540-989-7693
sockvdr@cox.net

Safety & Techniques

Dan McConnell
C: 540-597-7909
danomcconnell@live.com

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You can access the *Carbide Dump* electronically at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>

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Contributors: David & Mary Sue Socky, Marian McConnell, Nick Socky, Susan Burr, Karen Kastning, Carol Tiderman, Carroll Bassett, Maureen Handler, Jim Washington, Ava Pope, Alex Faunce, Ariel Carter, and Jerry Fuller.

Cover: Velvet formation in Lincoln Caverns section of Fort Stanton Cave, NM - Photo by Dave Socky. Courtesy of the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project and the Bureau of Land Management.

CAVERS CALENDAR

Oct. 14: Banff Mountain Film Festival 2021/22 World Tour - 6:30p Elmwood Amphitheatre, **FREE.**

Oct 14-16: Roanoke VA GO Fest
<https://roanokegofest.com/#>

Oct. 21: NO BRG meeting. GO TO VAR!!

Oct 21-23: Fall VAR, at the RASS property in Bath County. Sponsored by VPI Cave Club. Contact Nick Socky at sockynss@vt.edu see info on page 74.

Nov 6: John Fox Memorial Service, Radford, VA. (**rescheduled**) See p. 69.

Nov 12: Annual West Virginia Cave Conservancy Banquet, at the Alumni Center of the West Virginia Osteopathic School in Lewisburg, WV. See page 74-75 for more info.

Nov 18: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA. Elections!

Dec 10: WVACS XMAS Party, at the WVACS Field station north of Frank-

ford, WV. Dinner starts ~6pm. Contact Tisha Springer at 740-541-3558 or momtocons@gmail.com for more info.

Dec. 18: BRG Xmas Party, Noon-5p, Dave & Mary Socky's house, Cave Spring, VA.

Jan. 20, 2023: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

Feb. 17, 2023: BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

June 26-30, 2023: NSS Convention Elkins, WV. Sessions and vendors will be held at Davis & Elkins College; camping at the OTR site, Dailey, WV. See <https://nss2023.caves.org/> for info.



Long Cave Lists

maintained by Bob Gulden
USA Long & Deep, World Long & Deep, & World Big Rooms
www.caverbob.com/usalong.htm
www.caverbob.com/usadeep.htm
www.caverbob.com/rooms.htm
www.caverbob.com/wlong.htm
www.caverbob.com/wdeep.htm

Treasurer's Report 10/13/2022

Cave Bucks	\$ 40.96
Conservation	\$ 1.00
Equipment	\$ 104.12
General	\$3,878.91
Total	\$4,024.99

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.



John Fox Memorial: A Celebration of Life for John Fox will be held **November 6, 2022**, at 2:00 pm at Unity Christian Church, 400 Tyler Avenue, Radford, VA. Visitation following service at the church. On Monday, November 7, 2022, John's ashes will be interred at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery, 5550 Bagging Plant Road, Dublin, VA at 11:00 am. There will be a short service with military honors. All are welcome to attend. Karen Kastning - ka-ren@skyhopper.net

NO October BRG Meeting. See you at Fall VAR!

2022 BRG Landowner Christmas Cards: BRG Chair Marian McConnell says: *“I have a coupon from Shutterfly for 50% off all cards + free shipping - must be by November 20th. If you can send me a high res copy of whatever photo you want, I'll draft up a card design”.* We have a few weeks to come up with a photo worthy of the grotto Xmas card – it can be something you saw in the DUMP, or your own photo. Please send suggestions to Marian McConnell (marian.mcconnell@gmail.com) or David Socky (sockydr@cox.net) and we'll have some choices for the November 18 BRG meeting.

Friar's Hole: WVCC bought property including the original entrance to Friar's Hole — for cavers. (This is different from the Friar's Hole Cave Preserve) BRG voted to donate \$50. WVCC says *Thanks!*

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!

NSS Bricks: (Facebook, 7/28/2022) Our next order of celebration bricks will be going in around the middle of September. We need 50 more bricks in order to save on shipping costs. If you want your brick included, now is the

time to get your order in! To see a high-resolution photo (courtesy of Chuck Sutherland) click on this [link](#). An editable Buy a Brick donation form is available at this [“Form Link”](#). Let everyone see your support for our awesome headquarters property! For additional information, contact the office staff at NSS@caves.org or the NSS Operations Vice President, Maureen Handler at OVP@caves.org



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

VAR CLOSED CAVE LIST UPDATES: lots of information needs to be updated. Please send changes, additions to Brad Blase blase@virginiacaves.org



BRG Meeting & Trips Notice

There will be no **October 2022** meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto. Go to the Fall VAR instead!

Grotto Trip
Go to VAR!

Membership

There will **NOT** be an **October 21, 2022, BRG meeting at Jersey Lily's in Salem.**

Blue Ridge Grotto currently has 56 members and 6 subscribers.

Old BRG Members, past BRG Members – if you were previously a member of BRG and left in good standing, your membership can easily be activated: fill out and sign the BRG Membership Agreement and pay your \$10.00 annual dues to the Treasurer. (No, we do not make people eat bugs anymore.)

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 ~

Membership Updates

Jacob Whitlock
4830 Valley Crest Drive # 303
Midlothian, VA 23112
540-798-3786



Lincoln Caverns borehole in Fort Stanton Cave, NM
Photo by Dave Socky. Courtesy of the FSCSP and BLM

Boar Hole Cave, WV Trip Report

By *Susan Burr*

9/17/2022

Susan Burr, Doug Feller, Kelly Perkins, Jeff Huffman, Nick Schmalenberger, Mike Payette (caver, but newbie to our grotto).

Carroll Bassett had requested, when I was seeking permission, that we do some trail maintenance to the entrance. We were all happy to comply. Even though I did not get pictures of everyone helping clear the trail, EVERYONE on the trip did help! We cleared it as we

headed to the culvert entrance. We just left the tools outside the culvert when we went in.

Due to a back issue of mine, we went in and out of the culvert entrance. We were in the cave about 4 hours. During that time, we seemed to have seen a lot of the cave. Once inside we quickly found Boaring Blvd. After that it is all a blur! Some places we would have some of the group go and check it out while others waited.

We all had a great time! 🦇



Mike in the culvert entrance.
Photo by Susan Burr



Doug with the rope. The hole to the right of Doug is where we headed.
Photo by Susan Burr



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 will be open soon!

Grotto Trip Log

8/20/22: Lowmoor Cave, VA. Susan Burr, Kelly Perkins, Lauren Appel, Jeff Huffman, Hillary Huffman, Mystik Miller.

Mystik had been in this cave a couple of times during her NCRC training week, but that was it. Kelly hadn't ever been. We parked in the mine, so we entered the cave via the mine. We did the normal in to the end of the passage past the Ship Room, then we went to Fossil Alley. A few of us went to where there were some possible bat bones & exoskeletons (bugs??), as the rest of the group rested & chatted a bit. We decided we were doing pretty well on time, so Jeff asked if we wanted to go the Soda Straw Crawl off from Charlie's Dig. None of us have ever been before, so we decided to go. Let me just say, it was not worth the effort! It had the tightest & longest belly crawl we had to do. We got into the Soda Straw Crawl & were kind of disappointed. It was kind of cool looking, but not really. I didn't even take a picture. Once we were out of that section, we headed back out of the cave to just before you would get to the pool/muddy area. We took a side trip to the area that was at the end of the high lead trip Doug, Jeff & I did one time - that scared the crap out of me! Hillary & I hung out back there while Jeff took Mystik, Kelly & Lauren to show them the scary area. Once we regrouped, we headed out again toward the entrance area, but instead of heading out of the maze area near the entrance we explored a little back to the right of the pool/muddy area. Again Hillary & I hung as Jeff showed the others the beginning of the high lead passage where the first scary part was. LOL! Once they returned, we headed out of the cave through the natural entrance. We were going walk back via the cut dirt roads. The weeds

were so overgrown we didn't want to, so Mystik showed up the route they took down into the mine straight across from the entrance & down the hillside into the mine. The path was fairly well worn due to the recent NCRC trips in there. However, there were many spiderwebs up, which I had managed to knock down with a stick, but I managed to walk right into one near the end...yes, I screamed like a girl! Found the spider on me as I was changing.

Overall, we all had a really good time on our 5-hour cave trip. We were all tired & hungry afterwards. Mystik followed us to the place we always eat in Clifton Forge & ate with us before heading back to WV. (Susan Burr)

8/28: Unnamed cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Bob Alderson, Mark Minton, Yvonne Droms, and Gabby Zywicki. This was a trip that Gabby set up just south of Franklin, WV. The cave had a short Entrance pit with a steep slope down to high canyons, with lots of climbing. We ended up having to use two ropes and webbing to do some of the climbs. We didn't make it to the end because we needed more rope and bolt climbs to continue. The cave was well decorated, with a dig and high lead at the end. There are plans to go back. It was a fun 5.5-hour trip.

8/30: McClung Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Bill Koerschner, Joe Zokaite. We went back to finish off the lead past the tight spot in the subway below Minilithia. It was the lead after the tight squeeze over a rock that I almost didn't get back over. Joe didn't fit on that trip. I brought a hammer this time and beat the knob off the rock. But then Joe dug underneath and got the whole rock to move/shift down. There was now plenty of room to get through! We surveyed 258 feet until we reached a dig. Bill got through about 12 feet into a

bit higher passage, but then it devolved back into a wide sloping dig that was only 4 to 5 inches high and went around a corner. Bill deemed it too much work. We called it quits after that. Done with that section of the cave! Good 9-hour trip.

9/10: Dry Cave, WV. Participants included David Socky, Greg Springer, Nick Socky, and Rob Wardell. Went back to the Blowhole and started the resurvey upstream in the main stream passage. From Greg, this is necessary in order to fix closure and accuracy issues with the old survey. Nick and I took lots of photos. I also collected a couple of water samples for Tyler Huth. Near the end of the day, Nick found an overflow route over the top of the main passage that hadn't been surveyed. It was highly decorated and supplied some new footage for the cave. We finished up surveying and went upstream for another 500 feet to get a probe that Greg wanted to collect. Then Nick, Rob, and I went further upstream to check out a high lead that Nick had noted on a previous trip. Nick found an alternate way up, so no bolting required. It didn't go. We headed out at 9:30pm and emerged from the entrance at 11:45pm. 13-hour trip with 1154 feet surveyed!

10/1 - 10/8: Fort Stanton Cave, NM. Dave Socky participated in the Fort Stanton Cave project week in New Mexico. The project week was part of the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project and the Bureau of Land Management. Did four trips into Fort Stanton over the week, plus a trip to Cactus Cave to retrieve digging gear. Snowy River was flowing, so there were no trips up or downstream. Also helped with surface resistivity detection in order to try and find unknown cave around the area.



Velvet popcorn in Fort Stanton Cave, NM. Photo by Dave Socky. Courtesy of the FSCSP and BLM

PAY YER 2023 DUES!!

It's that time. Current BRG members and BRG Subscribers:

- 2023 BRG dues are \$10.00 for regular or associate members, \$5.00 for additional family members. Discount for members under 18. Subscriber fee is \$10.00 per person.
- Make checks to *Blue Ridge Grotto*.
- Families, additional dues payers – there will be printed info on your family rate at the BRG meeting.
- If you mail in your dues, please include a piece of paper with your current address, phones, email, NSS number (and NSS expiration month), and primary grotto affiliation.

- You can pay for multiple years.

Pay your dues at the November 18, 2022 BRG meeting, the December 18 Winter Get-Together, or mail them to:

David Socky, BRG Treasurer
6572 Woodbrook Dr.
Roanoke, VA 24018

Can't remember if you've already paid? We do! Check the pre-paid list.

Lauren Appel - 2023
 Colin Beck - 2023
 Sharon Bruce - 2024
 Joseph Caldwell - 2026
 Carl Cornett - 2024
 Miriam Cuddington - 2032
 Martin DiLeggi - 2023
 Carie Douppnik - 2024
 Joey Fagan - Life
 Cheryl Feller - 2023
 Doug Feller - 2023

Cole Frantz - 2023
 Keith Goggin - 2024
 Lisa Goggin - 2024
 Gene Harrison - 2032
 Jessica Hester - 2023
 Jeff Huffman - 2030
 Kelsea Johnson - 2023
 Kevin Johnson - 2025
 Randy Michael - 2023
 Sharon Mohny - 2023
 Lynn Ott - 2032
 Duane Owen - 2023
 Gordon Smith - 2023
 Jennifer Suggs - 2023
 John Taylor - 2023
 Bob Thren - 2023
 Meredith Weberg - 2023
 David Wickersham - 2023
 Brian Williams - 2023

Sorry, No PayPal.

Not a BRG member? Ask any officer how to begin the membership process.

Upcoming BRG Nominations

BRG began its nominations for office last month because we were not planning an October grotto meeting. But nominations will continue through until the November 18, 2022 grotto meeting.

Who can run for office?

- ♦ Any current adult Regular BRG members who have held BRG membership for more than a year can run for grotto office.
- ♦ Consider becoming a BRG Officer – see BRG by-laws to see the requirements and responsibilities for each office. The by-laws can be found at: https://blueridgegrotto.org/organization_set.htm
- ♦ Current outgoing BRG officers are: Chair -Marian McConnell. Vice Chair—Lauren Appel. Secretary—Mary Sue Socky. Treasurer—Dave Socky.
- ♦ All current Officers have served the maximum of two years and must step down from their current position. Which means – **we need a new Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.**

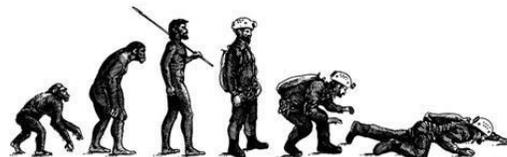
Nominations:

Lauren Appel	NSS # 69253	Chair
Nick Schmalenberger	NSS # 62709	Vice Chair
Marian McConnell	NSS # 37358	Secretary
Mary Sue Socky	NSS # 24206	Treasurer

Susan Burr nominated Lauren Appel for Chair and Nick Schmalenberger for Vice Chair. Dave Socky nominated Marian McConnell for Secretary and Mary Sue Socky for Treasurer.

Nominations remain open until the November 18, 2022 BRG Meeting. We can have more than one person running for office!

Anyone else wish to step up? 



CAVEEVOLUTION

Ray Sira - NSS # 22440 RL, FE

Ray Sira died in an ATV accident on 9/25/2022. Ray was a long-time, well-liked VPI caver.

He will be missed. Please keep his dad, Ed Sira, and the family in your thoughts.

<https://www.mccoynfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Raymond-Sira/#!/TributeWall>>

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the VPI Cave Club scholarship fund in Ray's name. These funds will be used to sponsor young cavers to attend the annual NSS Convention (VPI Cave Club, P.O. Box 558, Blacksburg, VA, 24063).



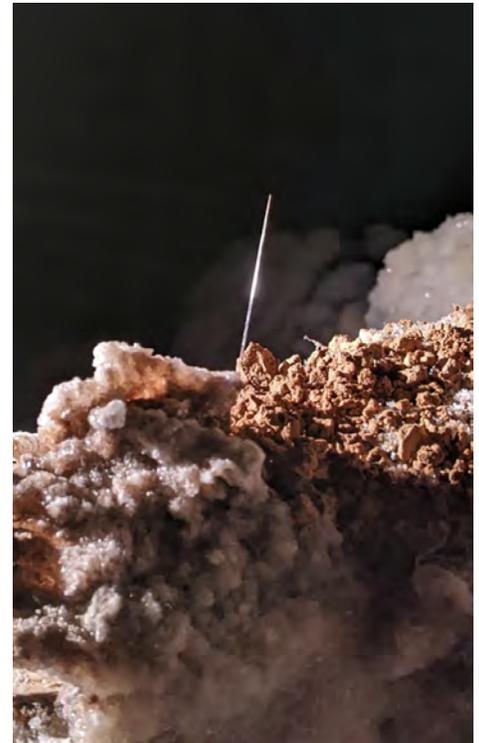
Light the dark and feel the spark,
Danger lurks, yet I'm prepared.
Time I kill, and nothing more,
Down the hole I bring no cares.

Don't bypass that feared abyss.
I trust my gear and know the knots!
Down the rope or through the mud,
Sense the calm.
All life is good.

Out, above, I do my due,
Prepare the day and bend the wire.
And feed the cats and tend the fire.
Sense the calm.
All life is good.

Play the game, but keep the name
This venture sport is for the team.
For all my teams. For all we hope.
Light the dark,
and feel the spark.

Jim Washington



Gypsum needle in **Fort Stanton Cave**, NM. Photo by Dave Socky. Courtesy of the FSCSP and BLM.



Looking upstream in Snowy River from Turtle Junction in **Fort Stanton Cave**, NM. Snowy River was flooded, so no travel past this point. Photo by Dave Socky. Courtesy of the FSCSP and BLM.

Breathing Cave, Bath County, VA VSS Monograph #1

Edited by Robert Zimmerman.
Cartography by Robert Zimmerman
and Bob Alderson

Want to know everything about Breathing Cave - its history, geology, photos, access policy, and maps? This is the book for you! \$25.00 each, plus shipping & handling.

Contact Dave Socky sockydr@cox.net for your copy! Available at Fall VAR!



West Virginia Cave Conservancy



Annual Banquet

Saturday, November 12, 2022

New location this year: The Alumni Center at the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia

Happy Hour (cash bar) starts at 5:00 PM. Dinner is at 7:00 PM

Banquet Speaker: George Dasher will do a presentation on the history of cave exploration in Greenbrier County, from the time of Native Americans to current projects.

Silent Auction: There will be the traditional Silent Auction at the banquet. Donations are welcome, or bring money to bid on the many treasures.

Menu: There are three menu options this year. You must choose one ahead of time:

Roast Prime Rib of beef (English cut 6 oz.) with baked potato bar, grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus, spring mix salad with Italian or ranch dressing, rolls and butter, dessert.

Grilled Chicken and Pasta Alfredo: Includes grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus, mixed green salad, fresh baked focaccia bread and rolls, cheesecake squares.

Grilled Zucchini with spinach mix lasagna with marinara sauce (vegan) includes baked potato bar, grilled vegetables with roasted asparagus.

All meals include the drink station with sweet tea, lemonade and bottled water.

- Reservations must be received by **Thursday, November 3**. Reservations are required so we know how much food to order. There will be no 'at the door' meal tickets available. Make checks payable to WVCC and mail to: **WVCC Banquet, c/o Bob Hoke, 6304 Kaybro St., Laurel, MD 20707**.
- Tickets can also be purchased using a credit card or PayPal account. To use a credit card or PayPal go to **WVCC.net/purchase-options**. If you pay through the website, please include a note with your meal preference or send a message to Bob Hoke at bob@rhoke.net with your preference.
- There will be a cash bar from 5–7 PM. Bringing personal alcohol is strictly prohibited.



Yes, I will attend the West Virginia Cave Conservancy's Annual Banquet:

Name(s) _____

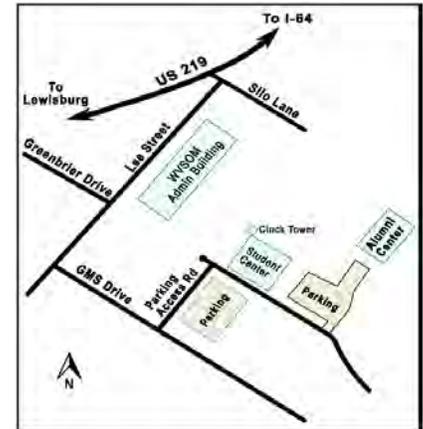
Email _____ Phone _____

Number of meals: Prime Rib (\$40) _____ Chicken (\$30) _____ Vegetarian (vegan) (\$26) _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Directions to the WVCC Banquet in the WVSOM Alumni Center

1. From I-64, Exit 169, proceed south on US-219 towards Lewisburg.
2. After approximately 1.1 miles, turn left just after the sign for the Robert C. Byrd Clinic onto Silo Lane.
3. Take the immediate right onto Lee Street and proceed past the WVSOM administrative building.
4. Make the first left onto GMS Drive, then go up the hill for a short distance and take the first left into the WVSOM parking access road.
5. Proceed straight then turn right at the T intersection and continue past the Student Center building on your left.
6. Take the first left and the Alumni Center is straight ahead. Parking is marked on the map. A few parking places are available on the south end of the Alumni Center for people who need to park close.



2022 FALL VAR

October 21-23, 2022

Hosted by: VPI Cave Club, Student Grotto of the NSS

Location: RASS Field Station, 6076 Deerfield Rd, Millboro, VA 24460



For those who don't know me, my name is Ariel Carter and I'm the current President of the VPI Cave Club. This year's Fall VAR is being hosted by the VPI Cave Club at the RASS field station in Bath County from October 21st - 23rd, 2022.

We will be having many activities, among those caving! There will be guided trips to Butler, Porters, 5 Springs Cave, and Grapevine. Anyone is free to do a self-guided trip at Island Ford, Crossroads, or Lowmoor throughout the weekend.

Information and registration forms can be found on the VAR website: <https://var.caves.org/index.php/events/fall-var> and will be updated as we finalize trips and other details. The cost is \$20 if you pre-register without dinner, \$35 total if you want dinner on Saturday. At-the-gate cost is \$40 and there is no guarantee of dinner! If you are coming, please take a moment to preregister so that we have an accurate headcount.

You can register online (there is a small credit card servicing fee). Online pre-registration is open until October 15th. If you are mailing in your registration, it should be mailed to our P.O. box by the end of the week!

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions president@vpicaveclub.org

RASS Fieldstation, 6076 Deerfield Road, Millboro, VA. 24460. Google map link is [here](#).

Hope to see everyone there!

Sincerely, Ariel Carter



Dry Cave, WV. Photo by Dave Socky.