







WNS -----  
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>  
Containment Procedures -----  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>  
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----  
[www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)  
Tri-State bulletin Board:----- <http://wobey.net/phpbb2>  
Tri-State Photo Gallery: ----- <http://wobey.net/gallery>  
2013 NSS Convention ----- <http://nss2013.caves.org>

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

### MONTH OF JULY

Patricia Carter, Lynn DiCarlo, Bob Edmonds, Ellie Florance, Jep, Kathy Robinson, Janet Tinkham

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## GROTTO NEWS

Tri-State Grotto Meeting  
6/12/13

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

Jerry gave a report on some correspondence that he received.

Bob gave a report on a book that we received from Dan Fong.

Tom made a motion for the Grotto to buy 3 of the books. That is a total of 10 books. The cost is \$10 each.

Old Business: VAR - Jeff gave a report on how people left trash around after VAR.

JC gave a report on the money from VAR. It appears that we did not lose any money, but we did not make any either!

Bob gave a report on a possible cave under the Apollo Theater.

New Business: John gave a report on some people who want to make a movie in a cave.

Events: Dig at Crystal Grottoes on 6/22/13 at 10:00 am.

Grotto picnic at Crystal Grottoes on 7/13/13 at 12 noon.

Dig at Adam Stephen on 8/17/13 at 9:00 am.

Caving: Terry went caving in Gilley Cave.  
Jerry went to Tub Cave.  
Bob went to Poor Farm Cave.  
John went to Norman Cave.

Cave Bucks: \$34.50 – Going to SCCI.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Nikki gave a report & slide show on her & Chris's discoveries in Memorial Day Cave.

Respectfully submitted  
Paulette Bennett  
Recording Secretary

## Spring VAR 2013

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

I pre-registered for spring VAR and attended.

Arriving Friday afternoon I signed in and checked out the campground. The field that we were supposed to have was closed off to us because of the rain. We were told to use the campsites up the hill. The roads up there were muddy already. They were torn up from a tractor that had been run over them. We were told that if anyone got stuck, the

park would pull them out. Almost everyone with a trailer parked in the parking lot.

The vendors were set up inside the dining hall and around it.

Climbing ropes were set up in the trees and were full of people hanging on them. They stayed busy all weekend.

The bonfire was started and bluegrass music soon drifted out of the woods.

Trips were set out on the table at 9 pm. Many cavers signed up for them.

Saturday morning started off with Jeff Marcum cooking breakfast for all of the trip leaders.

The trips started heading out at 9 am.

I was on Todd Zimmerman's trip to Norman Cave. We caved down the entrance slope and stopped before the stream. Turning left we crawled through the passage and popped out in a room with stalagmites, totem poles, and columns. Continuing across this large room we crawled down more passage until we ended at the Figure Room. We spent a while looking around there before turning back and heading for the stream.

As we climbed back into the large room we encountered a group of 9 spelunkers. It was several families from SW West Virginia. They had headlamps and maybe two helmets.

Climbing into the stream a look at the waterfall was obligatory. Turning downstream we slogged through the water. At several places you had to look through the water and search out rocks under the water to stand on. If you missed, the water was a lot deeper. One guy ended up in a hole up to his neck. I stepped into a hole and went waist deep. We continued down with the water level about knee to crotch deep. Of course what was knee deep for James, was waist deep for others.

We came to a room on the left and climbed out of the stream. Here we encountered a VAR group that was doing the through trip from Bone to Norman. As we left the room they headed up stream as we headed down.

The water seemed about the same depth as it was when I was there at Spring VAR 2012. Reaching another room on the left we climbed out of the stream. I believe Todd called this the Carmel Passage. We climbed up the rising passage into another room. You had to slide down an embankment to a lower level. Here you could see a lot of large formations and blankets.

This is where the trip turned and headed out. When we arrived at the stream, we passed another VAR trip that was headed where we had just come out.

Climbing back up the stream, we now were moving against the current. Again sloshing our way through, we hit the end of the stream and climbed out. Then we had the job of climbing up the LONG entrance slope to the surface. We changed into dry clothes and headed back to camp. We didn't want to miss dinner. We arrived one half hour before dinner.

At 6:30 the dinner was served. Pulled pork on rolls (you were asked how many you wanted), baked beans, cucumbers & onions, cole slaw, baked potato, and drinks. I was so full I couldn't eat dessert. I saw two different kinds of cake.

After dinner there were two speakers with slide shows. I don't remember the first speaker's name. The second speaker was Cory Hackly talking about the deepest cave in the Northeast, which is in Maryland.

After the speakers John Fox set up the music as people shopped the vendors. Later the bonfire was lit with many people gathered around.

Sunday morning was the VAR meeting. All morning people were packing up and heading out.

I was on the cleanup crew with JC Fisher and Jeff Marcum. Jeff had cleaned up the bonfire area earlier. We still went by and checked it out. Everything looked great. We climbed into JC's Truck and headed up the road to the campsites. We visited each one and took out the trash. The ranger said bears would disturb any trash left around. All the campsites looked neat. The roads were sloshy of course from the rain. They looked as well as could be expected. None looked excessively torn up. No ruts, just two inches of clay slime. Nothing that dry weather wouldn't fix.

Arizona Caving  
Colossal Cave & Cave of the Bells  
May 23-24, 2013  
by Nikki Fox

How could a three-week vacation be planned for Chris Coates and I that would not include any kind of caving? Surprisingly so, getting underground almost didn't happen. Our plans mostly consisted of canyoneering in Utah, with a few stops in New Mexico. Some friends of ours offered a place to stay if we stopped by, so we graciously accepted Bob and Diane Zimmerman's offer.

We rolled into the sunny town of Tucson on Thursday, May 23, in the afternoon and went straight to the Zimmerman's abode. The two been involved in the Virginias caving community for decades; Diane being the owner of Sites, Cave Rat and Sites Attic caves in West Virginia; and Bob active in cave survey and cartography, who has put out a couple of monographs through the West Virginia Speleological Survey. They moved to Tucson after their retirement in late 2011.

After dinner, we accompanied Bob, who just had surgery on his hand several days prior, to an annual cave cleanup at Colossal Cave, a show cave near Vail, Az. Members of the two local grottoes, which are SAG (Southern Arizona Grotto) and EGI (Escabrosa Grotto), were in attendance.

We wore jeans and t-shirts in this 77-degree cave and were overdressed. For about three hours we worked on using a Shop-Vac to remove lint from the lowest part of the cave. It was like cleaning lint and hair balls in Bone Cave (Greenbrier, W.Va.). What a nightmare! We wore masks and coughed on the dust all night long. Needless to say, we needed another shower.



Chris Coates uses a broom to wipe off the lint buildup on the formations in the "Living Room," the lowest point inside the show cave near Vail, Arizona, called Colossal Cave.

Photo by Nikki Fox

One of the benefits for volunteering was the free roam of the cave, which was nice. Back in the day of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the fellas worked on making trails and installing

permanent metal ladders throughout the cave. We had a fun exploring the closed sections of the cave and touring the ladders.



Nikki Fox photographed at the top of a metal ladder installed by the CCC when developing Colossal Cave as a show cave.  
Photo by Chris Coates

On Friday, David Oase had planned on leading a trip to Cave of the Bells in the Coronado National Forest since Bob was on the mend with his hand. There were several other people who were supposed to go with us, but everyone cancelled at the last minute. It was a blessing in disguise with the small group comprised with just the three of us.



Chris Coates (from left), Nikki Fox and David Oase after a 5-hour trip inside Cave of Bells.  
Photo by Nikki Fox



David Oase (right) unlocks the get to Cave of Bells, which located in the Coronado National Forest, southeast of Tucson.  
Photo by Nikki Fox

We spent over five hours, which we found out is a rather long cave trip in Arizona, underground in this 75-degree cave. David had been in the cave five times and basically knew the tourist trade route, but was up for exploring new areas. So Chris took off, following a small passage going steeply downward.



Chris Coates gets a little red in the face from a crawl inside Cave of Bells, which usually runs in the mid-70s.  
Photo by Nikki Fox

After 15 minutes of slowly descending (I didn't want to get too hot by running through the cave because you'll never cool back down) I came upon a tiny scorpion in the passage. It was a little longer than the diameter of my pointer finger with my glove on, so about an inch long. Funny to find one inside the cave, far from the entrance. David

identified it as bark scorpion, which is the most venomous scorpion in North America!



A bark scorpion, which is the most venomous scorpion in North America, inside Cave of the Bells.

Photo by Nikki Fox

After caving for about 10 more minutes, the passage eventually lead to a small hole. I could see passage large enough to stand beyond the hole. I wanted Chris to first see if he could fit the pinch before I went through half way and then found out I couldn't fit my pelvis. He couldn't make the squeeze past his chest, so I opted not to be the only one who could possibly make the venture.

We backtracked, ascending the passage and then noticed a right turn. This lead to a parallel passage. Surprisingly, this passage was steeper going down, but also larger. We seemed to travel deeper than the last passage on the slick mud-lined the floors,

making it rather sporting. At the end of the passage, we came upon a standing lake of greenish-turquoise water.



The Lake inside Cave of Bells, which was measured to be at 76 degrees.

Photo by Nikki Fox

According to the USFS website, the lake is 80 meters (262 feet) below the entrance. Visitors to this area notice an unusual temperature gradient. Instead of getting cooler as the cave gets deeper, the temperature becomes warmer and more humid. It was noticeably harder to breathe and keep your body temperature down.

Apparently the lake is believed to be heated by a source far below the cave itself. In fact, Chris and I found the entire cave to be rather stifling, and low



on oxygen due to the lack of airflow and the heat inside the cave.

After we made the trek back up into the main trunk passage, we stopped for lunch and tried to cool down. This was one of the main things I was unable to become accustomed to — being hot and overheated from simply moving around. It was not as if we were carrying heavy cave packs or were moving really swiftly through the cave like normally would back East. I've become accustomed to stopping when caving hard to cool down in a matter of minutes in the standard 55 degree caves.

Another noticeable difference in the caving between Arizona and in the Virginias was my technique of movement underground. I'm used to wearing a cave suit, which acts as an armor, shielding my body from rocks allowing me to travel quicker, more lax, without much damage or consequence to my body. There's not much protection offered from wearing a t-shirt and pants, or what I prefer to call "spelunker clothes." I had to become very attentive to my movements.

Next, we checked out a couple on unknown areas to David and upon pushing them, not much was discovered beyond several dead-ends. Unfortunately, David did not have a map of the cave, but knowing about the covert, secretive culture of the caving community in the state, this came as no big surprise that cavers do trust each other to share simple information amongst themselves.

The last thing we did was follow the main trade route through the mazy area of the cave, which happened to be flagged with markers. Presumably, the markers were placed to help eliminate people getting lost since it is quite common in this area. It was rather challenging finding these markers, since whom ever placed them for people to follow did so in a rather furtive manner. It took us several minutes to find each one of the 20. Perhaps it would be beneficial to supply maps of the cave and educate Arizona cavers how to read them . . . just saying.

I was pleasantly greeted with similar formations in Cave of the Bells. Flowstone, stalagmites, stalactites and columns made from calcite deposits and aragonite bushes were the norm in this limestone cave. It was rather interesting to really look at the cave passages themselves since they did not have the same characteristics of limestone solution caves. The caves in southern Arizona have been formed by limestone dissolving in weak sulfuric acid over time. There were no scallops on the walls, no sign of water flow or beautiful phreatic passages.



Aragonite formations line a wall deep within Cave of Bells.

Photo by Nikki Fox

The karst areas of the state are on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona, mostly in the Holbrook Basin region. Oddly enough, we had camped in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest on our way down to Tucson, right next to some awesome caves and didn't even know!

We ended our trip with a quick exit, since David was crunched for time. I think we kept him underground longer than expected. All in all, we had a good time with our guide and we've now experienced Arizona caving.

*The Robertson Association  
Introduces*

*The TRA Legacy Guild*

**Our Mission**

Each year as we attend OTR we look around to see what has been added to our ever-changing property. Many volunteers, donating countless hours of work at great personal expense, have done all that you see. Last year, the TRA Fund Raising Committee starting looking at additional ways to raise funds to assist our Volunteers in their mission to help complete both ongoing projects and allow future projects to get underway.

**Join Us**

Your Legacy Membership will help us and help our Volunteers meet our goals, and the annual cost of membership starts at just \$250.00 per individual. The 2014 memberships may be purchased at the TRA booth located next to COOTers starting at OTR 2013 and sales will continue on line or by mail until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. After the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, Memberships that include the offsite events will be limited and Memberships after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 may not be entitled to the offsite special event. No memberships for 2014 will be sold after August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

2015 Memberships will go on sale at OTR 2014.

**Benefits of Membership**

As a TRA Legacy Member you will have early arrival access to the OTR 2014 Site. You may come in, set up your camp, reserve some space for you and your group, just hang out or chip in and help set up for OTR. You will be

welcome to come in any time after noon on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 2014.

A private welcome and thank you party will be held at COOTers on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> followed by special activities for Legacy Members. Our TRA officers and project managers will be on hand to provide you with updates of all our current and future projects and will be available to answer questions and listen to your comments. Activities would be based on the number of memberships purchased each year and possible activities could include a private dinner party at an area restaurant, a dinner train, seminars on wealth management, estate planning, travel, wine, whiskey & cigar tasting, and more.

A special recognition device or name badge will be issued to each Legacy Member annually.

Please note there is no free early entry or benefits for spouses or guests for this early arrival program. Every adult who enters or attends the activities early must be a paid Legacy Member.

**You donation is tax deductible**

If you would be interested on making a financial investment in TRA and OTR, please join us. A large portion of your donation is tax deductible as we are a 501c3 not-for-profit organization.

**Need more Information**

Please check out our web site [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org) or contact: JC or Judy Fisher at [jcf@access.mountain.net](mailto:jcf@access.mountain.net), Tim Brown [tim@timcoinc.net](mailto:tim@timcoinc.net), or Kelly Deem [kldeem@otr.org](mailto:kldeem@otr.org).

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#28**

**I.#6**

**JUL**

**2013**

**#89**



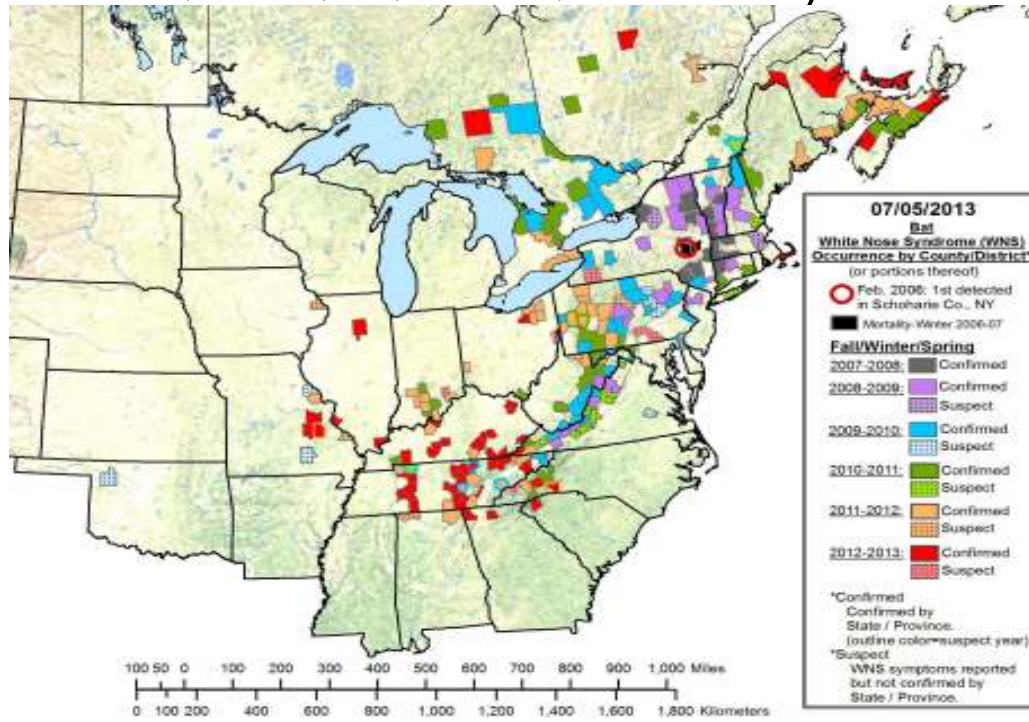
# CAVIN CALENDAR

## JULY 7TH - AUGUST 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9	<b>JUL 10</b>  Meeting 7pm	Jul 11	Jul 12 Karst-O-Rama	Jul 13 Karst-O-Rama TSG Picnic - 12 noon
Jul 14 Karst-O-Rama	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18	Jul 19	Jul 20
Jul 21	Jul 22	Jul 23	Jul 24 APOLLO THEATER 6:30 PM	Jul 25	Jul 26	Jul 27
Jul 28 PARENT'S DAY	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31	Aug 1	 Convention Pre-Camp	 Convention Pre-Camp
Aug 4  Convention Pre-Camp	Aug 5  Convention Shippensburg, PA	Aug 6  Convention Shippensburg, PA	Aug 7  Convention Shippensburg, PA	Aug 8  Convention Shippensburg, PA	Aug 9  Convention Shippensburg, PA	Aug 10
Aug 11	Aug 12	Aug 13	 Meeting 7pm	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



The latest 2013 WNS Map

## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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**TO:**

