



The TAGLine

PO Box 11506 Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506
<http://www.chattnoogagrotto.org>

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

January 2007



Meeting Notice

The regular meeting of the Chattanooga Grotto is held the second Monday of every month at 7:00p.m at the downtown CARTA Conference Center in Chattanooga, the next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2007. The EC meeting is at 6:00, right before the Grotto meeting.

Election Time!

As we all know, January is Election Time! Most of this month's meeting will be devoted to electing the officers for this upcoming year. Remember, the best way to make a difference is to participate! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

REMINDER, DUES ARE DUE

Book Special From NSS

The NSS is running a Bulk Purchase Special for the next 90 Days!! From December 5, 2006 until March 5 2007, place a group order of 10 or more NSS books at regular retail prices, and receive a 40% discount on your purchase.* Ten or more books must be ordered at the same time and shipped to one address for the discount to apply. You may place orders via the internet at: www.nssbookstore.org Phone in orders to 256-852-1300 Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT, or snail mail your orders to NSS, 2813 Cave Ave, Huntsville, AL 35810. (Include your grotto affiliation and your NSS number with your order to ensure that you receive the group discount)

*MEMBER DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY WITH THIS PROMOTION

As a reminder to new and old members alike, the Grotto's annual dues for 2007 are due and payable as of January 1, 2007. Enclosed (or attached if you get your Tagline electronically) are our current membership list and member contact data, as well as a copy of our membership application/renewal form. Please check your data on the list, update it if needed on the form, and send in your form and appropriate payment, or give them to the treasurer, within a respectable proximity to the January 1 deadline. (Right now, while you are thinking about it, would be a good time.) If there are no changes to your data, just put your name on the form and write "no changes" in the area for the data. Please note that our dues schedule has not changed; it is shown on the back of the form, along with definitions and instructions. It's all the same as last year. We usually have a 90 day grace period on getting in the dues and, after that, unpaid members are dropped. So thanks in advance for your promptness, and happy holidays!



CAVING IN CARLSBAD

I am looking into planning a trip to Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible so that we may begin planning the logistics of this trip.



As of this moment I am looking at leaving on March 9 and returning Wednesday, March 14. There is a possibility that cheap airline tickets will be available and if so we will fly to El Paso TX where we will be renting a vehicle and driving the rest of the way to Carlsbad. If no plane tickets are available we will possibly rent a large 12 person van and driving there over the course of two days. If we drive we will be able to stop at Sonora caverns (I have been told this is one of the best caves in the country) and I am also trying to get permission to drop The Devils Sinkhole, a 140 open air pit in Texas.

This cave is a summer hibernacula for Mexican free tailed bats, so we may not be able to visit this cave. If we don't get into this cave there are many caves open on BLM land and in Carlsbad Park, that are open to the public with permits.

There is a limit of 12 people. Grotto members will have first pick. Let me know ASAP if you are interested in going.

~Marty

Howard's Waterfall Trip Report

By Jerry Geer

Okay, here's the trip report. We all met at the Hardee's, where I consumed a LARGE burger. Loaded into cars and went to the cave, where I ignored mom's advice about not going caving until an hour after eating (or was that not going SWIMMING?) Anyway, we went into the crawl (Marty, Chris, Dane, Ginger, and myself). Bill and Norman were ahead of us-we didn't catch up to 'em until the disaster room. No waterfall over the

entrance today-wasn't raining hard enough, I guess. Then we crawled, walked, and slid back to the end of the cave. Fairly dry cave, easy traverse-except the climbdown to get into the disaster room-it was a bit tricky-but no one got hurt. We met those nice folks from DCG(where is that, anyway?) Some big rooms down in there-30, maybe 40' ceiling? There are a few nice formations in there, and you could hear some running water at one point in the cave-couldn't see it, though. We stopped a few times to shoot the breeze, and let the old guys in the group (me & Dane) catch their breath. Howard's is a nice cave, a good place to break in new cavers. We climbed back out of the cave without incident. And FUDGE WAS HAD BY ALL! (Reb, I had peanut butter fudge-where were you?)

-faithfully submitted, Jerry Geer, December 31, 2006.

Chattanooga Grotto Survey and Financial Appeal

By now you should have received the survey and financial appeal sent to all active members of the Chattanooga Grotto. Please take the time to complete and return the survey even though you may



not feel you can support the Grotto with a financial gift. The results of the survey will be used to help us plan activities and programs for 2007. Your generous financial support will help us make these activities and programs a reality. It will also help us to offset the loss of income due to the fact we will not be doing the Munchie Stand at the TAG Fall Cave-In anymore.

If you did not receive the survey and financial appeal and would like us to send you one, please let any member of the Executive Committee know, or send an email to Butch Feldhaus at bfeldhaus@centurytel.net.

The Chattanooga Grotto Application/Renewal Form

Please take a moment and fill out the following form with your most current information.
Membership types, dues and mailing information are listed on the back.

Name: _____ NSS #: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip(+4): _____ - _____
E-mail Address: _____
Phone #'s: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell: _____ Pager: _____
Membership type: •R •A •S (see reverse side for types)
If student membership, name of school: _____
Is the Chattanooga Grotto your primary Grotto? Yes: _____ No: _____
(More primary members = more votes at the NSS Convention each year)
May we put your name on our rescue manpower list? Yes: _____ No: _____

Additional members with the same address

Name: _____ NSS #: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Work: _____ Cell: _____ Pager: _____
Membership type (check only one): •R •A •S •F
Is the Chattanooga Grotto your primary Grotto? Yes: _____ No: _____
May we put your name on our rescue manpower list? Yes: _____ No: _____

Name: _____ NSS #: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Work: _____ Cell: _____ Pager: _____
Membership type (check only one): •R •A •S •F
Is the Chattanooga Grotto your primary Grotto? Yes: _____ No: _____
May we put your name on our rescue manpower list? Yes: _____ No: _____

Name: _____ NSS #: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Work: _____ Cell: _____ Pager: _____
Membership type (check only one): •R •A •S •F
Is the Chattanooga Grotto your primary Grotto? Yes: _____ No: _____
May we put your name on our rescue manpower list? Yes: _____ No: _____

Name: _____ NSS #: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Work: _____ Cell: _____ Pager: _____
Membership type (check only one): •R •A •S •F
Is the Chattanooga Grotto your primary Grotto? Yes: _____ No: _____
May we put your name on our rescue manpower list? Yes: _____ No: _____

Below is a portion of our Grotto's By-laws to assist you in understanding our membership types. We look forward to working with you to further cave exploration, conservation and research.

- A. Regular Membership** – A Regular Member of the Grotto must be an active member of the NSS. They shall receive all meeting notices and publications, may attend all meetings, enter into any discussion of Grotto business and use any Grotto equipment per the rules of that equipment. They may vote on any Grotto business and hold any Grotto Officer position. If their NSS Membership becomes dropped during their Grotto membership year, then they shall become an Associate Member until their NSS Membership is active again. If they hold a Grotto Officer position, then the remaining officers shall seek an immediate election from the Regular Members of the Grotto to fill that office.
- B. Associate Membership** – An Associate Member shall carry all the rights and privileges of a Regular Membership with the exceptions that they may not vote on any Grotto business nor hold any Grotto Officer position. If an Associate Member becomes an active NSS member their membership is automatically changed to a Regular Member.
- C. Student Membership** – A Student Member is a reduced dues member. They shall carry the same rights and privileges as a Regular Member or Associate Member depending on their current standing as an NSS Member.
- D. Family Membership** – A Family Member is an adjunct member of either a Regular Member or an Associate Member. They do not receive any Grotto notices or publications but have all other rights and privileges. Their ability to vote and hold office is subject to their standing as an active NSS Member.

Current Dues Structure

All dues are due January 1st each year. Membership will be dropped by March 31st if they have not been paid. Membership is per calendar year and is not prorated.

Each Regular Member = \$15
Each Associate Member = \$15
Each Student Member = \$10
Each Family Member = Free

**Please make your check out to and mail to: Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS
PO Box 11506
Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506**



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In order to get the Tagline out earlier we would like articles for all editions of the Tagline to be submitted by the 28th of the month before publication. Send in pictures, articles, announcements, or what you want posted. See contact page for info. All drawings are copyright protected and the editor has received special permission from the artist to use in the TAGLine. The gifted Rick Spears provided the drawing on the envelope. Thank you very much! The Chattanooga Grotto TAGLine is the monthly notice of The Chattanooga Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Inc. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and space requirements. Exchanges are welcome and encouraged. Please submit trip report and other longer material to the TAGLine PO Box 11506, Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506 or the Grotto TAGLine Editor.