



# *The TAGLine*

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

October 2005



## **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 October 10th, 2005. The EC meeting is at 6:00, right before the Grotto meeting.

## **Grotto Program**

This month's program will be from the vast selection of programs available from the NSS library. Come see what Marty selects for us!

## **Grotto Picnic and Auction 2005 Fair and Balanced Report by Jack McCormick**

We did it! We did it! We finally had our Grotto picnic and auction this year. It was held at the Cave-In site on September 24 and was planned to fit in with the TAG work weekend and the Grotto's prep day for the Munchie Stand. And so it did. Unfortunately, it also was on the day of the Tennessee Cave Survey's semi-annual meeting that was held in Cookeville, TN, that morning. Ah, so much to do, and so little time; but's that's another story. Out of chaos will emerge order and vice-versa, but that's still another story. Here is the Chattanooga Grotto 2005 picnic and auction story.

On Saturday, September 24, the weather was warm, the skies were fair, and the mood

was good as the Grotto's little band removed the Munchie Stand equipment from storage in Trenton, GA, and hauled it up Lookout Mountain and on to the Cave-In site. Except for having to remove a nest or two of fire ants, the Munchie Stand prep work went smoothly. Person power was coming and going as needed to advance all activities, while having a little fun as well. At about 12:30 pm, I left the site and returned to Chattanooga to begin collecting and loading the additional paraphernalia, including food and drink, needed for the picnic and auction. Judy and I arrived back at the site at 5:00 pm to find that all additional work on the Munchie Stand had been completed and things were ready for the set up needed for the picnic and auction to get going. And so they did. After trying since April to fix a site and date for the event, it seemed a little surreal to be actually out there working on it. Still, the weather was warm, the skies were fair, and the mood was good.

Hollie Baranick, The Grotto's new secretary, and Marty Abercrombie, the Grotto's new vice-chair, had done most of the work in the afternoon to inventory, record and prepare for either silent or oral auction the donated items that were to be sold. Within the next two hours, all the rest of that was completed and the food was set out to await the start of the event. At first slowly, and then faster and faster, as dusk was nearing, the people began to come, and they brought food, and them more and more food. The picnic supper turned out to be a very good mutual treat all around. One might even say that it was a grand affair. And those little orange colored,

pumpkin shaped hot peppers, those peppers were not to be forgotten. Thank you, thank you to all who brought food, food of all types.

Then the auction started. First we did the silent auction and then the oral auction. Thanks to our auctioneer, Jerry Wallace, and to Hollie, Marty, and especially to my dear wife of thirty-six years, Judy, for keeping everything going and recording the auction data. We had 74 items donated for auction; 54 of those were successfully auctioned. (yes, we now have our Grotto meeting door prize stock replenished.) There were 21 successful bidders who paid a total of \$513.89 for all the items sold. What bargains were had by some! And yes, we did make a profit, as the Grotto's total expenses were only \$323.52. We usually do better, but we have done worse. A final round of thanks goes to all, especially PMI, that donated items for us to auction. Thank you, thank you!

We remember all those, including one of our own members, who are displaced and suffering in this year of storms for the USA. I have, as I'm sure many other of our members have also, donated to the relief efforts. Yes, the times are somewhat tough this year, but on the close of the Chattanooga Grotto's 2005 picnic and auction, at about 9:00 pm on Saturday September 24, the weather was mild, the night was pleasant, and the mood was good on Lookout Mountain, GA, as we packed up all the stuff and headed for home.



## **Calendar of Events**

October 6-9, 2005 - TAG Fall Cave-In. The Grotto needs your support with our largest fund-raiser. Please come help at the Munchie Stand.

## **How to eat for free! (Part 3)** **By Wm Shrewsbury**

We still need volunteers to work during the Cave-In. The current schedule is on our website. You may call or e-mail me anytime to put you on the schedule.

I can be reached at the following:

Cell - (423) 315-0840  
Home - (423) 238-9334  
Work - (423) 344-4716  
[william2005@hawaiiiflow.com](mailto:william2005@hawaiiiflow.com)

Email is checked daily, and I'll gladly put you on the schedule. I will also put up the most recent schedule on the Grotto's website, updating it each night.

Remember - if you don't plan to attend the TAG Fall Cave-In but would like to help out, just stop in at the registration desk and let them know that you are there to work for us. We'll get you in to help!

## **Baked Goods Needed** **By Wm Shrewsbury**

Don't forget that the Grotto sells a LOT of baked goods at the cave-in. Cookies, brownies, etc. go over very good!

We will purchase fruits to sell, but need your baked goods. Simply drop about 3-4 cookies or a couple of brownies into a bunch of lightweight sandwich bags and we're in business! We sell these for \$0.50 a bag. An easy way to tell if you have the right amount in the bag is to ask yourself "would I give 50 cents for that?".

See you there! Prime working spots are still available!

## Contact List

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This contact list may also be found at the Grotto web site "Contact Us" page, at <http://www.caves.org/grotto/chattanooga/contactus.html>



In order to get the Tagline out earlier we would like articles for all editions of the Tagline to be submitted by the 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Submissions for The TAGLine should be made in writing or emailed and be in the editor's hands by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. 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.