



The TAGLine

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

December 2006

Grotto Christmas Party

Instead of having a regular meeting the Chattanooga Grotto will be having our annual Christmas party on December 16 (Saturday) at the home of Pam and Clem Akins. The festivities are set to begin around 7.00 please bring a covered dish and your best photo, slide, object de' art for the salon. I am putting together a year in review power point presentation together as well so if you have any caving pictures from the last year you want included please send them to me before December 11. Directions to the party are on page 3 of this newsletter.



Christmas Trivia:



Do you know the Little Drummer Boy's actual name? Answer is on page 3 of this newsletter!

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

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Honoring Wm Shrewsbury

The following presentation was given at the recent fiftieth anniversary party.

During the preparation of this event, members of the grotto reviewed a lot of historical documents for inclusion in the program for tonight. There were a lot of familiar names that kept coming up. Service to your fellow cavers is what makes this grotto and the NSS work. Service has to be its own reward, for often it goes unrecognized. Some of us feel called to serve and deserve note. Munson and Black were names that permeated the grotto's early decades. Lane, Howard, Wolinski, and Feldhouse were heard later in lots of references. Through the old annual reports and newsletters, through the SERA guidebooks and TAGline's of the last twenty years one name keeps showing up more than any.

Shrewsbury.

I returned to my first grotto after a long separation. Wm was everywhere. Funny name, Funny spelling of his first name, wears shorts all the time and prefers purple. I figured he must be gay when I first saw him. Boy was I wrong.

In my opinion, Wm has given more individual hours of his time to this organization than any other single individual.

Wm has served the grotto as chairman and treasurer but more often, he was in the background. He has single handedly run or caused to have run the picnic and auction year after year. No one gave more of his time to the TAG munchie stand than him. He has chaired the last three SERA's Chattanooga has hosted. He was on staff of the 89 NSS convention and chaired the 98 convention.

During this time, he managed Gourneck Cave for the SCCI, fed the fish in the aquarium, and was at the deepest, goriest rescues with Hamilton County.

When this celebration came up, who scanned the slides for hours at time? Wm. Who burned each one of your discs personally? Wm.

This year, Chattanooga Grotto passed on the 2007 SERA Cave Carnival. We also decided to give up the munchie stand at TAG. Why? Simple. Wm is leaving.

Wm, we appreciate all the hours you have given to the grotto. You have impressed and humbled us with your devotion. Whether you were

displaying your taciturn face or telling one of your tall tales, we have grown used to having you around and will miss you.

Wm and Carolina are departing to live that dream we have all had from time to time. Tonight, they are leaving on their sailboat from Ross' landing and heading down the river and out to sea.

We thought about a plaque, which is traditional, but figured he would have no place to put it on a sailboat. So I asked Bruce Smith if he knew of anything Wm didn't have for the boat. Bruce had seen Wm salivating over a particular item.

Wm, we went together to get you this. Please don't get lost and come back to see us.

Wm was given a Garmin 5205 plotter. This is a GPS for ocean going vessels. Wm was suitably bowled over by the gift and the accolades.

Fair well, Wm.

Jim Wilbanks

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.

How to Win the War

by Rodger Ling

contributed by Jonny Prouty

When you rappel into Neversink and find an empty beer can at the bottom of the rope, are you the one caver in ten who picks it up?

Organized cavers traditionally appoint one poor soul as a "Conservation Committee," and delegate all conservation tasks onto that one set of shoulders. The rest of us breathe easier. We might attend the occasional cleanup trip, but most of us won't pick up a beer can at the bottom of a pit. I guess we figure the Conservation Committee will take care of it.

In the preface to the 1976 SERA Cave Carnival Guidebook, Paula Spencer complained that while a lot of cavers talked conservation, very few took positive action. All these years later, Paula's words still ring true.

It's too easy to say that the war is an impossible one to win. There are just too many rednecks out there, you say, spraying paint and laying string and tossing cans. We can't change their attitudes. Actually, that's not completely true. Trash breeds trash. One beer can soon leads to a pile of twenty; one arrow on the wall would seem to be enough to point the way out, but three more get painted next to it, because the idea itself is contagious. Painting arrows and dropping cans become the accepted thing to do. But the same concept can be used to our advantage.

What does the new caver think when he or she sees not just one person but everyone around him routinely picking up trash, erasing arrows, and winding up string? The message conveyed can be more powerful than any words we might preach. Caver see, caver do. Along with a trendy Petzl hardhat and a Lost Creek pack, the new caver learns to carry a garbage bag.

Yes, there are a lot of rednecks out there trashing caves, but there are a lot of us, too. As long as there is one caver fighting back for every redneck, then we're not just breaking even, we're winning.

And it all starts with picking up that one beer can.

Please go to <http://stationr.org/caving.htm> for more of Rodger Lings great adventure stories.

Directions to the Grotto Christmas Party:

From Chattanooga, take I-75 North toward Knoxville

Take exit 11, Ooltewah, and bear right onto US Highway 64/11

Drive approx 2 miles, pass the Wendy's and RaceTrac Gas

Turn Left onto White Oak Valley Circle—it's the first left after you leave the streetlights

(If you reach Hummer Automotive, or any business on the right, you've gone too far)

Turn left at the 5th driveway on the left, 6115

It's a steep gravel driveway with no house easily visible from the street

(If you reach the really twisty curves you've gone too far)

You may see bat stickers on the mailbox.

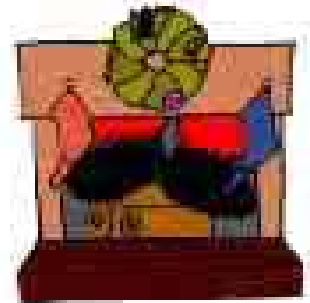
The address is:

6115 White Oak Valley Circle

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Christmas Trivia Answer:

The Little Drummer Boy's actual name was Aaron.



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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 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.

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