



# The TAGLine

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

February 2006



## 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 March 13, 2006. The EC meeting is at 6:00, right before the Grotto meeting.

## Is This Your Last Tagline?

March is the deadline to pay your dues for the Grotto, if you have not done so already. Those who have paid their dues will be receiving their new membership card soon! If you haven't paid your dues yet, please talk to Glenn Segrest.

## Happy Anniversary!

This year marks our 50th year as a grotto! It is time for a celebration! Buddy Lane is holding a series of planning meetings for the occasion, and we hope that you can come! Our next meeting will be on March 15, at 6pm at the CARTA Conference Center. We're looking forward to hearing your ideas!



## To Munch or Not to Munch?

The executive committee will be meeting on March 13 at 6pm to decide if our Grotto will continue to do the Munchie Stand at the TAG Fall Cave-In. All are welcome to attend, and if you are willing to volunteer or take charge of this please come to the meeting and let your opinion be heard.



## Student Park Cave Trip

All of you who didn't go to Student Park Cave missed a fun trip. Thank you David for leading us all around. Cliff Nelson, Dustin Something or Other, Jo and Anna Stratford (?), Daniel Gauthier, and myself were all given a good tour by David Lapham. It was a lot of fun.

Although a little muddy. And went. And dark. ☺

Sincerely,  
Jonny Prouty

## Grotto Program

This month the world-renowned Clem Akins will be presenting "innovative Rigging" for our grotto program. He will discuss how to use the rope at hand to best effectiveness, pigtails, rescue procedures, and QAS handling. Food will be provided so bring an appetite. Hope to see you there!

**The Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS, Inc.  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR 2005**

Date: January 11, 2006  
To: Grotto Membership and the NSS Parent Organization  
From: Jack McCormick, Treasurer, 2005

Beginning Balance 1/1/2005 \$5,968.64

<u>Income</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	Dues	655.00
2.	Contributions	125.00
3.	Auction	501.89
4.	Gear rental	320.00
5.	Grotto item sales	9.50
6.	Munchie Stand	5,040.04
7.	Cedar Ridge key sales	<u>80.00</u>
Total Income		6,731.43

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.	Tagline, member lists, and cards	795.33
2.	Speleonews	0.00
3.	Meeting room rental	0.00
4.	Storage space rental	300.00
5.	Grants/donations	988.55
6.	Sam's Club dues	30.00
7.	Internet web sp	12.00
8.	Auction picnic	323.52
9.	Corporation fee	20.00
10.	Program supplies	43.25
11.	Cedar Ridge keys	0.00
12.	Meeting expenses (food, etc.)	369.73
13.	Postage for sales	2.26
14.	Officer appreciation plaque	0.00
15.	Munchie stand	2,928.87
16.	Summer splash	0.00
17.	Photo/art salon prizes	500.00
18.	P. O. box fee	<u>136.00</u>
Total Expenditures		8,448.74

Ending Balance 12/31/04 \$5,968.64

## Why Cavers Are So Cool

By Hollie Baranick

Recently, while caving with a bunch of grotto folks, someone asked me what I thought of cavers. To me, the answer is pretty obvious-I happen to believe that cavers are some of the coolest people on earth. A few years ago, I was driving home from the beach, rollerblades bouncing happily in the backseat, getting ready to go to my way cool job at Disneyland, when my husband dropped a huge bombshell. We were to be re-located, kicking and screaming, to the Chattanooga area. I could only think of one word-*crap*. No more beach, no more Disney, at the time no Starbucks, and it's COLD in Tennessee, and they have bugs-big ones that bite! I was not a happy camper. (There's a point to this, I promise.) So, we moved here, and I tried to make the best of it & find things to do that would make me like living here. I got a job at Ruby Falls, and while working there I remembered that I used to do a little "spelunking" with my brothers growing up in Virginia. Then I realized that there were a lot of caves here in Tennessee. Of course, the problem is that absolutely none of my Cleveland friends like the idea of going underground-they're claustrophobic, they're scared of heights, they're lazy, you get the idea. That's where the grotto came in. Guys, we have a good group here. I am not the most accomplished caver, and that's putting it mildly. Last month, Jonny Prouty took me & Daniel Gauthier to Gourdneck Cave. I believe Jonny ended up walking the length of the cave twice-he would climb up a spot, move forward a ways, then realize I wasn't behind him, and come back to lend me a hand. Even though I was there before, there were a couple of spots that I just didn't know if I could do it, but he & Daniel both were so encouraging and helpful, and we all had a great time. Then, they learned that I really want to do vertical, so a few days later we met at the Eagle's Nest with Marty Abercrombie to learn. That was where I participated in my first cave & cliff rescue-*ME*. I hung on a rope about 8 feet in the air for at least a half hour, while Jonny and Marty figured out a way to get me down. After that, I was sure that my vertical days were over, but do you know they want to try again? Their patience amazes

me. Now last week a whole bunch of us went to Byer's Cave. I immediately recognized myself as the weakest link in the group, and totally set myself up for the "rolling of the eyes", and the "deep sighs", for all of those hard spots, but I didn't get them! I was absolutely blown away by how much everyone looked out for each other. Even those hard spots were fun, because of everyone's great attitude. (well, except for that spot where I decided that the "easy crawl" had ended, and Glenn Segrest got to do some amazing acrobatics to get over me & someone else to prove me wrong...oh, and that part where I cried in front of Brian Sakofski) That cave beat me up! I was really tired coming out, but everyone was so helpful. My favorite was the game that Glenn made up, "Hmmm. What are we going to do to get up this ledge?" It was like he knew that when I'm physically worn out my personality immediately reverted to that of a five year old & he played along! So, my point is, no one judged me based on my ability. They made me laugh, they made fun of themselves, and told stories of their rough situations. And as far as I know, everyone's still speaking to me. It would have been very easy for everyone to stay in their little circles, not really include me in their trips, and eventually I would have faded out of caving history. But now, I'm addicted, and can't wait for that time when I'm caving with the new "newbie", and get to tell my stories of woe, and lend a hand. See ya at the next trip!

## New Members

by Jack McCormick

The following persons joined the Grotto within the past month. Please make them welcome and include them in our future caving adventures.

Ben Castleberry  
1428 Hatfield Road  
Rising Fawn, GA 30738  
Home phone: (706)462-228:



Jonathan Ovake  
10720 Southwest 117 Court  
Miami, FL 33186  
305.598.2823, 305.781/3807  
tapion817@aol.com

(next page)

## Are you NSS?

Jonathan Scott Burishkin NSS55900  
PO Box 569 Talge Hall Room 3751  
Collegedale, TN 37315-0569  
423.718.4722  
johnstormrider@yahoo.com

Etienne Van Wyk  
330 Niki Ln  
Paris, TN 38242  
731.641.9194  
et\_vanwyk@hotmail.com

Renee Cerovski  
Thantcher Hall 245 PO BOX 529  
Collegedale, TN 37315  
423.236.6245, 804.317.3030  
renee\_cervoski@yahoo.com

Daniel Gavthier NSS 48817  
115 7th Ave.  
LaSalle, Qu H8P2L-9  
514.367.1155, 514.577.3536  
nss@inintel.net

Christina Jimenez  
PO Box 529 Room 308  
Collegedale, TN 37315-0529  
christina18@yahoo.com

Jonathan A. Mnich  
6078 Chandler Hill Rd.  
Ooletwah, TN 37363-5880  
423.326.3788  
jonmnich@bellsouth.net

Ramses Perez  
PO Box 569 Room 1377  
Collegedale, TN 37315  
305.726.8747  
gg2nett@yahoo.com

Joe Stratte  
19615 Sunny Meadows Ln  
Spangel, WA 99031  
509.245.3896, 509.879.3443  
423.236.7789  
jjstratte@hotmail.com

Being a grotto member, we know you are already interested in caves. Why not take the next step and show your commitment to cave and karst study, exploration, and conservation by joining the National Speleological Society? The National Speleological Society (NSS), founded in 1941, is a nationwide organization with a membership of more than 12,000 individuals from all walks of life and age groups. We are cavers just like you bound together by our love of caves and desire to protect the underground wilderness for future generations. Regular membership in the NSS entitles you to receive the monthly caving magazine, the NSS News; the scientific Journal of Cave and Karst Studies three times a year; the annual membership directory; and American Caving Accidents. Membership also entitles you to audiovisual and printed library privileges and NSS Bookstore discounts, as well as a discount for the Society's annual convention.

Membership costs just:

**Regular-** 1 year: \$36 2 years: \$70 3 years: \$103  
(Over 17 years of age; all privileges of membership)

**Associate-** 1 year: \$25 2 years: \$49 3 years: \$72  
(Under 17 and, optionally, full-time students. Non-Voting)

**Sustaining-** 1 year: \$108 2 years: \$214 3 years: \$319  
(Regular membership, with \$72.00 credited towards Life membership each year)

**Conservation-** 1 year: \$100 2 years: \$200 3 years: \$300  
(The difference between the regular dues and the Conservation dues will be applied specifically to NSS conservation and education programs and activities)

**Life-** \$720 (Regular membership privileges for life for a single payment)

Conservation Life- An additional payment of \$1,000 made by any type of Life Member  
Institutional- \$75; Educational and scientific organizations, show caves, libraries, etc.

**Limited-** 1 year: \$15 2 years: \$29 3 years: \$42  
(Over 17 years of age, privileges of Regular membership, but without the NSS News and the Journal)

To join please go to the NSS website at: <https://www.caves.org/newmember.shtml>

Email questions to Eric Weaver at: [WEAVEREM@UCMAIL.UC.EDU](mailto:WEAVEREM@UCMAIL.UC.EDU) or Dawn Ryan at (815) 260-3454

The NSS Membership Committee

## Byer's Cave Report

By Jonny Prouty

Well, we had a great trip! Thanks all of you who showed up! We spent a good 6 or so hours underground. Saw a lot of stuff, made it to the Big Formation Room, the Rimstone Dams, the Balcony Room on the east end of the cave and made it back to the Chert Waterfall (is that the name) and the big one below the Balihi Passage on the west end. Good stuff, eh?

Who Showed Up:

Jonny Prouty (me)

Glenn Segrest

Marty Abercrombie

Ben Castleberry

David Lapham

Hollie Baranick

Alex Stinson

John

James

Chris

Craig

Tre

and lastly but not leastly Brian Sakofsky.

Sincerely,

Jonny

^v^

### Did you know?

Real Roquefort cheese is made from sheep's milk under strict regulations. It must be aged for at least two months in the limestone caves of Cambalou in the South of France.

The 20 million Mexican free-tail bats from Bracken Cave, Texas, eat approximately 200 tons of insects nightly.

The first child to be born to English parents after the first English immigration to the New World occurred was born in a cave in 1682. The child later became the Pennypot Tavern. The child, John Key, was called the "firstborn", and lived to be 85 years old.

(complements of [www.uselessknowledge.com](http://www.uselessknowledge.com))

## Calendar of Events

**March 15:** Planning Meeting for 50th Celebration

**June 1-4:** SERA at Bucks Pocket State Park

**October:** TAG Fall Cave-In!

**November:** 50th Anniversary Celebration

### **Grotto Trips!**

#### **Trip Schedule for This Year:**

**March:** Wheeler's Raid Pit, led by Glenn Segrest. Meet at Panera Bread downtown at 8am. Easy vertical cave. Please contact Glenn for more information. (423) 838-4377

**April:** Gourdneck Cave, led by Wm Shrewsbury. See Wm for more information. 423.238.9334

**May:** Camps Gulf/Natural Bridge Sinks, led by Beth Elliott.

**June:** Limrock Blowing Cave, led by Monty Keel

**July:** Whiteside Cave, led by Beth Elliott.

**August:** Sinking Cove Cave-Summer Splash!

**September:** Cedar Ridge Cave, led by Carolina Shrewsbury

**October:** TAG Fall Cave-In!

**November:** Levi Cave.

November: Grotto's 50th Birthday!

**December:** Cumberland Caverns Christmas Party

## Contact List

**Chair:** Marty Abercrombie  
9869 Highway 11  
Trenton, GA 30752  
H - 706.657.7160  
abercrombie\_mart@hotmail.com

**Vice Chair:** Mike Hills  
5485 Tallant View Terrace  
Ooltewah, TN 37363  
H - 423.987.3993  
mhills@southern.edu

**Treasurer/Membership:** Glenn Segrest  
4638 Northland Lane  
Chattanooga, TN 37416-2215  
H - 423.838.4377  
MtnDwler@yahoo.com

**Secretary/TAGline Editor:** Hollie Baranick  
116 30th St. NE  
Cleveland, TN 37312  
H - 423.280.8223  
hollie@nldc.com

**Librarian:** Jack McCormick  
8622 Blueberry Lane  
Ooltewah, TN 37363-9251  
H – (423) 238-9589  
mccormik@mindspring.com

**Gear Guru/Cave Key Holder:** Buddy Lane  
40 Hidden Brook Lane  
Signal Mountain, TN 37377  
C - 423.580.0624, W - 423.867.2846  
blane@scci.org

**Conservation Officer:** Jim Wilbanks  
Post Office Box 34  
Rising Fawn, GA 30738-0034  
H - 706.462.2316  
jimmail69@earthlink.net

**Webmaster:** Wm Shrewsbury  
5537 Old Hunter Road  
Ooletwah, TN 37363-8790  
H - 423.238.9334, W - 423.344.4716  
william2006@hawaiiflow.com

**chattanooga.org Webmasters:**  
Mike Harrison  
H - 423.886.4335  
meuon@geeklabs.com  
Jonny Prouty  
H - 571.251.6160  
dormat@gmail.com

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. 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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