



# The TAGLine

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

Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS

September 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 September 11, 2006. The EC meeting is at 6:00, right before the Grotto meeting.

## Executive Committee

The executive committee will be meeting on Monday, September 11. All are welcome to attend and let your opinions be heard!

## Grotto Anniversary

The Chattanooga Grotto was founded fifty years ago. We still have twomembers who were around back then. We also have a lot of history as a leading grotto in the southeast. On November 4th, we will be celebrating our fiftieth. We will be having a banquet and multimedia presentation at the Chattanooga Convention Center. The presentation will include fifty years of slides and pictures. All attendees will go home with a copy of that presentation on CD. Also included will be a wealth of documents from our distant past. Our new grotto website <http://www.chattanoogagrotto.org/> will host preregistration and more information as the date approaches. We hope to see you there.  
Jim Wilbanks

## Grotto Picnic and Auction

### “Our only fundraiser”

It's that time of year folks. Our sole fundraising event will take place September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This year, we will feature the meat smoking talents of Maureen Handler. Those of you who attended the picnic and auction two years ago remember her selections of fine meats. The grotto will also furnish drinks, ice, and utensils. Attendees are asked to bring a dish for the table to fill out the meal. Make what you do well. Vegetarians are encouraged to bring dishes as well.

The location of the event is the new TAG site on Lookout Mountain. September 23-24 is the second work weekend for volunteers to groom the site in preparation for TAG. So come early and bring your string trimmer. You can't reserve a site, but you can check out what will be available. You are welcome to camp Friday and Saturday night. The showers will be running.

We will begin the meal at six PM eastern. The auction will begin at seven. At the beginning we will have a revolving silent auction for smaller items. This can be a lot of fun especially if you have sharp elbows. At about eight we will begin the live auction for the big items.

There will be a wide selection of new and used caving equipment, household items, and other types of sporting goods. There will be some carpenter's tools, camping gear, art, food, and

many other items. We have generous donations on way from PMI, One Rope One, IMO, Howie's Harnesses, and other caving vendors.

But we can't have a successful auction without you. Please check out the garage, the attic, or maybe even the living room. Got something of value you just don't want anymore? Do you make a mean cookie, pie or nut bread? Bring it on down. Anything of value is welcome. This is our only fundraiser and it can carry the grotto if the auction is well attended and supplied.

## September Meeting

We have an exciting presentation lined up for the September Grotto meeting! Dennis Curry, of the Hamilton County/Chattanooga Cave and Cliff Rescue team will be presenting some of the big rescues the team has been involved with over the last 15 years. He'll be showing some extensive video footage, slides, photos, and news reports captured from rescues all over the world, including Lechuguilla and other serious cave rescues the team has worked on. This was presented at the NCRC (National Cave Rescue Coalition) training this past year and was called a "show stopper" by the attendees. Come prepared to be inspired and awed!

### Mark Your Stuff!

Marty is bringing two electric engravers to the next grotto meeting. For a mere donation, you can electronically etch your name in all of you paraphernalia!

## Wanna Lead a Trip?

The cool thing about having a grotto, is having a bunch of cool people to cave with! If you are interested in leading a grotto trip, please see Hollie Baranick. From the folks I've talked to, not only is there an interest in week-end trips, but week-nights as well! Let's go caving!



## Calendar of Events

**September 24:** Annual Auction!

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

**November 4:** 50th Anniversary Celebration

## Grotto Trips!

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

**September:** Cedar Ridge Cave, led by Carolina Shrewbury. This will be a cave art trip! See Carolina for more information (423) 238-9334

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

**November:** Levi Cave.

**November4:** Grotto's 50th Birthday!

**December:** Cumberland Caverns Christmas Party



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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. 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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