

# The Carbide Courier



The  
Dayton Underground Grotto  
of  
The National Speleological Society



**DUG's 18th Annual Christmas Party Was Another Great Success! Fun Was Had By One and All!**

Volume 19 Issue 1

January 2010

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**GROTTO MEETINGS**

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for September, December and month of Wormfest) at 7:00 pm at Roger and Lynn Brucker's house, 1635 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH. For directions, see the map on the back cover, or go to the DUG web page:

[www.dugcaves.com](http://www.dugcaves.com)

**MEMBERSHIP INFO**

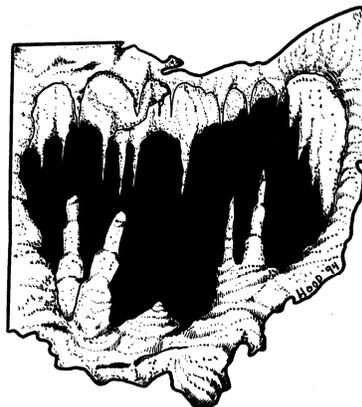
Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family (\$5 additional for those wanting a paper copy of the newsletter). Membership includes the monthly publication of *The Carbide Courier* in paper or electronic format. Memberships are renewable on October 1st. Dues can be mailed to:

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Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay online using PayPal at:

[www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm](http://www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm)



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**Front Cover:** DUG's Christmas Party. Photo © by Traci Hacker.



***From the Editor...***

Welcome to 2010! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Well, 2010 is upon us and we need to be doing things as a grotto. WNS has curtailed much of our caving, but that doesn't mean we can't do things as a grotto. We can have fun above ground and do things together. This is the perfect opportunity to plan social events we all can participate in and enjoy each other's company. Dana has some great ideas he's working on, but I'm sure he'd welcome any suggestions you may have.

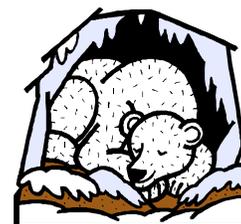
As always, I'm in need of material for the newsletter. This is your newsletter and a benefit you receive for paying your dues. However, I can't publish a newsletter if I don't have articles to put in it. So, if you're out doing something cave-related (or anything you think would be interesting to the members), please send it to me. I'm also in need of photos.

One last thing. Make it your New Year's resolution for 2010 to attend grotto meetings, volunteer your time, and participate in grotto activities.

That's all for this month.

Mike Hood  
Editor

**DON'T HIBERNATE THIS WINTER. GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR GROTTO!!**



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*The Carbide Courier* is sent electronically the last week of the preceding month and also sent to the printer at the same time. Submissions must be sent to the editor by the Friday preceding the last week of the month at carbidecourier (at) yahoo (dot) com.

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## Calendar of Events

- January 10th**      7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting  
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- January 29th-31st**    Carter Caves State Resort Park Winter Adventure Weekend (replacing Crawl-a-Thon) See page 5 for more details.
- February 14th**      7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting  
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- March 5th-6th**      The Adventure Summit—Wright State University Student Union  
<http://www.metroparks.org/adventuresummit/>
- March 14th**        7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting  
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- April 11th**         7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting  
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- May 9th**            7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting  
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)

### January Birthdays!

Alan Leach—3rd  
Timothy Bowman—8th  
Garth Seehawer—21st  
Dennis Green—23rd  
Alexis Conarroe—25th  
Kim Hedges—26th  
Dana Sutherland—26th



### New Member

Jessica Michelle Roberts  
Middletown, Ohio



**Welcome!**



### *From the Chairman:*

I hope you all had a great holiday season. If you have not heard yet, Carter Caves S/P is hosting a Winter Adventure weekend the last weekend of January. There is a link posted on the DUG site with more info, and online registration soon to come.

Weather depending, DUG will have its first ski adventure later this winter! I'll post more info as the details materialize.

Oh, and by the way.... I'm still open for idea's!!

Dana Sutherland  
Chairman

### **The NSS Needs Your Help!**

Once again we must file the annual CFC application in order to be considered to be a participant in the 2010/2011 CFC Fund Raising Drive. (We netted almost 6K in the 06/07 campaign!)

If you were part a group that performed any type of conservation, restoration, or cleanup work; would you take a minute and send me a brief e-mail including the following:

What State did the clean up take place?

In what County or near what city?

What Date(s)?

Name of the Cave?

Approximate Number of Participants?

Very Brief Description of what took place.

(Removed trash, graffiti, restoration, etc.)

Thanks in advance!

Scott Fee, NSS Fund Raising Guy  
scottfee at bellsouth dot net

## **WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND AT CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK**

The Winter Adventure Weekend at Carter Caves State Resort Park is scheduled for January 29-31, 2010. This event is replacing Crawlathon since caving has been curtailed due to WNS.

Park Naturalist, Coy Ainsley, states "Obviously without the caves this event will not draw nearly as many participants as Crawlathon. The goal is to have around 10-15 different trips/programs offered for folks to choose from and draw 100-200 participants."

Some of the suggested activities include:

- Tygarts Creek Cliff Hike
- Surface Karst Features of Carter Caves State Resort Park
- Down for Dummies
- Historic Lighting Trip
- History of Mine Lighting
- Winter Survival Skills Workshop
- Rappelling and Ascending
- Zipline
- Tygarts Creek Canoe Trip(s)
- Extended Hikes
- Geocaching Workshop
- Squeezebox Program
- Corrugated Cave

Some ideas for evening entertainment include a squeezebox competition, bluegrass band and other music, and stargazing.

Coy is looking for ideas for more activities. Please contact him at [coy@crawlathon.com](mailto:coy@crawlathon.com), or 606-286-4411 x2543 if you have any other ideas or suggestions for events.

Even though caving is going to be severely limited (other than a couple of events in Cascade Cave), it should still be a fun weekend and a break from the monotony of winter.

## A Non-Scientific Story About Bats

by Thomas Cottrell

### THE CULTURE OF THE BAT

What do you know about bats?  
 I'll bet it's more than you realize.  
 A bat is born, a bat lives, a bat dies.  
 Alpha to Omega.  
 Beginning to End.  
 The Beginning is miraculous,  
 Or normal for a mammal.  
 The End may be disastrous or  
 Of natural causes.  
 But the in between, the life,  
 The living, is the key  
 In this story of the bat.  
 Otherwise, no story.

For an individual bat  
 Life is survival by instinct.  
 A bat is nurtured by its mother,  
 Until it enters adult bat society,  
 Where like most mammals,  
 A bat eats, sleeps, grooms,  
 Urinates, poops, and procreates.  
 I could have written:  
 "Pi\*&@\$, Sh\*#@, and Fu\*\$#"   
 I cleaned it up for polite society.  
 And, Wow! It also flies,  
 And in the dark too.  
 Old age may bring life's end.  
 But life may be interrupted by disease,  
 Or by White Nose Syndrome.  
 The End has become our concern.

For a greater realm.  
 Human imagination creates  
 A large data set of the bat  
 Part truth and part beyond reality.  
 Contributions are from times past,  
 From cultures around the world,  
 Including the current popular culture,  
 And volumes of scientific research.  
 The Bat leaves with us an Accumulation, still ex-  
 panding,  
 As we build 'The Culture of the Bat.'

Bat facts and opinions are many.  
 It is a cute furry little winged rodent.  
 It is a fanged drinker of blood.  
 It is a pollinator, a fruit eater.  
 It is beneficial as an insect eater.  
 It is evil and dwells in the underworld.  
 It brings luck and fortune.  
 It produces rich fertilizer.  
 It tangles in your hair, and  
 It carries rabies.  
 It lives in huge colonies or is solitary.  
 It is an herbivore or a predator.  
 It is feared, respected, hated, loved.  
 It inspires legend, art, research, awe.  
 It uses echolocation or sonar.  
 It hides in caves and attics.  
 It is a night stalker and hibernator.  
 It hangs upside down, and  
 It is endangered.

The diversity of the bat,  
 Order Chiroptera,  
 Presents in over 1100 species  
 Which is 20% of all mammal species.  
 A banded bat lived to age 30,  
 A surprisingly long life,  
 For such a small mammal.  
 Bats origins are well beyond  
 58 million years ago.  
 Evolution is the tool  
 By which bats adapted.  
 Bats live in tropical jungles,  
 And extend their species  
 To most climates, but  
 Do not tolerate the cold of the poles.  
 Bats evolved to fill  
 Many diverse niches, and  
 Have survived very successfully,  
 At least until now,  
 But, for how much longer?

Only four species of bats,  
 One discovered by Spaniards  
 Exploring Central and South America

While searching for gold,  
 Were bats that drink  
 The blood of cattle.  
 Legends of Vampires arose.  
 These dark stories spread in Europe,  
 And Count Dracula frightened us  
 In books, plays, and horror movies.  
 The fantasy continues today  
 With cults and many novels, and  
 Teenage vampires on TV  
 And in scary videos.

The Asians may have folded  
 The first Origami bats.  
 In China the word for bat is 'pian fu'.  
 'fu' sounds very nearly like  
 The word for good fortune.  
 As a result, five bats in a drawing  
 Has come to symbolize the saying  
 "May you receive the Five Blessings."  
 Which are a long life, riches, health,  
 Love of virtue, and a natural death.  
 Likewise 'wu-fu' refers to  
 'The Five Gods of Good Luck'  
 And their blessings.  
 This culture sees the bat  
 In a very positive light.

There are bats in the  
 Ancient cultures of  
 Native American Indians,  
 The Mayan, and the Aztec,  
 And in that of their descendants.  
 India has bats in its culture,  
 And the bat appears in Celtic art.  
 'Wing of bat' is part of a witches brew.  
 A person may be batty or have  
 'Bats in the belfry'.  
 We have Batman, Bat Girl,  
 And Bat Boy found in a cave.  
 Then there is Meatloaf and Ozzy.  
 It's a stretch, but somewhere here  
 In the Batman movies and  
 'Bat Out of Hell' albums is  
 Bat music.

Bats help us decorate for Halloween.  
 We have bats galore, with

Bat jewelry, bat toys, bat quilts,  
 Bat shirts, bat hats, bat scarves,  
 Bat books, bat stickers, bat houses,  
 Bat carvings, bat trinkets, bat posters,  
 Bat stamps, bat napkins, bat plates,  
 Bat costumes, bat fetishes, bat art,  
 Bat tattoos, bat kites, bat mobiles,  
 Bat magnets, bat cartoons, bat logos,  
 Bat pottery, bat puppets, bat photos,  
 Bat gates, bat caves, bat flights, etc.,  
 Even bat guano.

Google 'bat' and find  
 Over 25 million entries in .15 seconds.  
 Admittedly some refer to baseball,  
 Or cricket, or Masterson, or Mitzvah.  
 And the list has duplications, but still,  
 25 million is a huge number.  
 It is one measure of  
 'The Culture of the Bat'.

As cavers we include the bat  
 In many aspects of our sport, hobby, Social life, re-  
 search, conservation,  
 Art, literature, careers  
 And entertainment.  
 Think of all the bat logos  
 You have seen out there.  
 We explorers of earth's caverns,  
 Really do appreciate bats,  
 And I am proud to be one of many  
 Who are their friends.  
 Let's hear it for Bats!  
 Hurrah for the Bat!  
 Hurrah for 'The Culture of the Bat'!  
 What do you know about bats?  
 Or about bat culture?  
 Was there ever a  
 'Giant Saber Tooth Bat'?

the end

*Disclosure:*

Even though I used some form of 'bat' 91 times in  
 this story, I swear that at No time was a bat harmed  
 in any way. I counted 'fu' as 'bat', but not 'Fu\*\$#.'  
 That's a joke. You can laugh.

## GSP HAS GOOD NEWS TO SHARE!

Dear Cavers and friends;

I am happy to announce (*and that is putting it very mildly*) that GSP was just awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for our first composting outhouse from Toyota Manufacturing in Georgetown as part of their philanthropic commitment to environmental programs. This is our first non-caver grant, which makes it all the more exciting!

We now have (or have commitments for) approximately 2/3 the projected cost. There is still one grant application to NSS outstanding, and I am very optimistic that we will get the \$1,000 we requested.

The Composting Outhouse is no longer a pie in the sky idea. It is a real project, but we still need more funds. My goal is to get it constructed and useable by Open House this year.

I'd like to thank the Louisville Grotto, DUG, BGG, the Cleveland Grotto, and Jeannie Trowbridge for their generous contributions.

If you are not on that list, please, please, please consider a donation to the Composting Outhouses fund for GSP by the end of the year. Remember, all donations are tax deductible. You can write a check to GSP and mail it to Werner Jud, the GSP Treasurer. We are also trying to get our PayPal account set up on the GSP website so you can contribute through that method. Any amount will be graciously and gratefully accepted.

And if you want to see a copy of the grant application I sent to Toyota, send me an email offline and I will get it to you.

Neena Jud, Chair  
Great SaltPetre Preserve  
harmony at one dot net



## Cave Surveillance in KY for WNS

We are preparing the list of caves for WNS surveillance this winter and are in need of volunteers to help with the effort. If you are interested, please reply to the email below with the following information:

1. Name(s) of interested individuals.
2. Have you conducted a T&E bat count in KY (can you distinguish hibernating bat species, etc.)?
3. Have you assisted with a T&E count in KY (can't distinguish species, but have helped, know where caves are, etc.)?
4. What area or region of KY are you interested in helping with cave surveys?
5. What cave(s) are you familiar with in KY?
6. What is your availability from 1/1/2010 to 4/1/2010?
7. Do you have vertical caving experience?

Grotto and grotto members - please let me know the cave (s) you plan to check this winter. All I need to know is the cave name and county. Once we start surveillance, I will coordinate with you on dates checked and types of checks.

And yes, we are preparing a data sheet. Once finished, we will send it out to those that have expressed interest in helping.

Also, you will be expected to follow the latest decon protocols. Download them from: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/wnscavers.html> and become familiar with them.

This is going to be a HUGE undertaking and will require a lot of coordination. While we want to check for WNS, we do not want to disturb the bats any more than we have to. That is why if you plan to go to a cave, please please please let me know so I can make sure it does not get checked over and over.

Thanks! I look forward to hearing from most of you.

Brooke Slack  
Wildlife Biologist  
Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources  
#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Office - 502/564-7109 ext. 4573  
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Email - [brooke.slack@ky.gov](mailto:brooke.slack@ky.gov)



## Defendant to Plead in Carter Bat Killings

By KENNETH HART - The Independent

ASHLAND — One of two men charged with killing more than 100 endangered bats at Carter Caves State Resort Park in the fall of 2007 intends to plead guilty to a federal charge.

Kaleb Dee Morgan Carpenter's attorney, Matthew Warnock, filed a motion Tuesday in U.S. District Court requesting that a arraignment hearing be scheduled for his client. Such a request is routine when a defendant plans to change his or her plea from not guilty to guilty.

Carpenter and his co-defendant, Lonnie Wales Skaggs, had been scheduled to stand trial Jan 7. Skaggs could still go to trial on that date if he does not plead guilty before then.

A pre-trial conference in the case is scheduled for today.

Carpenter and Skaggs were indicted Oct. 1 on one count each of violating the federal Endangered Species Act. The offense carries a prison sentence of up to one year and a fine of up to \$1,000.

The indictment alleged the two men entered Laurel Cave on Oct. 26 and Oct. 27, 2007 and killed a number of Indiana bats by crushing them with rocks, flashlights and their feet. The bats were hibernating at the time and were knocked from their perches and killed, authorities said.

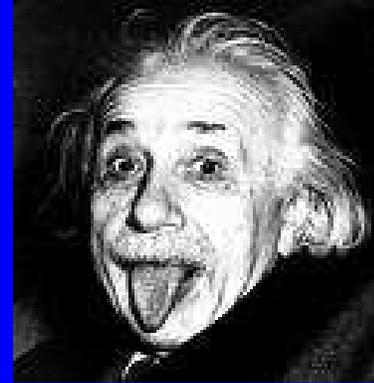
Carpenter and Skaggs allegedly killed 23 bats the first time they were in the cave and 82 the second time, the indictment states.

The Indiana bat, also known as *Myotis sodalis*, is an endangered species.

The bat-killings led to the construction of metal gates at Laurel Cave designed to protect the animals during their hibernation, and to the posting of a \$5,000 reward for information on the crimes. Bat Conservation International, a Texas-based organi-

zation devoted to the protection of bats, was one of several entities that contributed to the reward fund.

Laurel Cave is one of four at Carter Caves that is home to Indiana bats. All four locations have been deemed critical to the survival of the species.



**THE BOREHOLE WISHES ALL  
DUGSTERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



**Moving?? Be sure to let Alan  
Leach know your new ad-  
dress and phone numbers so  
he can keep you updated in  
the grotto's membership da-  
tabase! (see page 2)**



## Authorities: Man Falls Into Pit in Ky. Cave, Dies

TATEVILLE, Ky. — A man slipped into a deep pit and was killed Wednesday while exploring a treacherous southeastern Kentucky cave, officials said.

Crews worked for hours to recover the body of Steven Troxell, 21, who died of blunt force trauma, said Pulaski County Coroner Richard New.

Troxell and two companions were walking inside the Sloans Valley cave when he fell into the cone-shaped, 30-foot-deep pit. His companions called 911 about 3 p.m. EST, officials said. The coroner said the three were not experienced cavers.

The opening to the cave is located on private property, and it was not clear whether the owners were aware anyone was exploring it, New said.

Troxell's body was found about three-quarters of a mile inside the cave, which is part of a system that meanders about 25 miles beneath private and public lands in a part of Kentucky known for its outdoor recreation. The system is one of the longest in the world.

"It's probably one of the most treacherous caves in the county and probably in the cave system," New said.

Outside the cave opening, Troxell's family anxiously awaited word. His mother, Rita Troxell of Somerset, said she was stunned when she got the news her son had been inside the cave.

"He was always a scaredy-cat," she said, tears welling in her eyes. "I used to tell him he was scared of his own shadow. That's why I was surprised he went into the cave."

She said her son was a construction worker, but was unemployed.

Steven Troxell had been with friends Brandon Butt, 26, and Brooke Butt, 21, who made it out unharmed, New said.

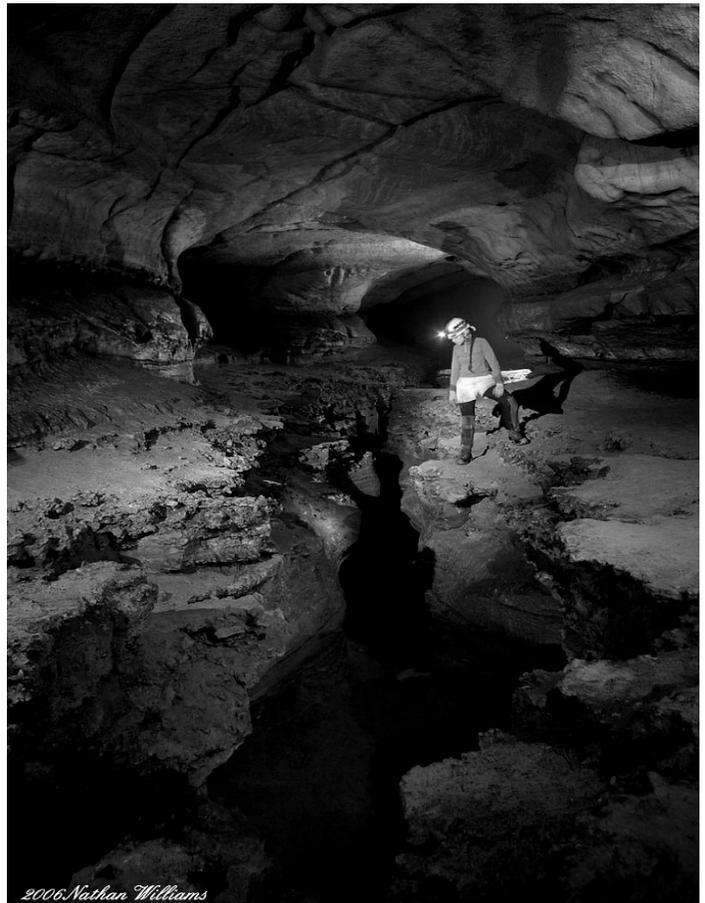
Don Franklin, area manager for the state emergency management agency, said the pit where Troxell was found was dry, but crews had to navigate through a wet, muddy path full of rock falls and vertical climbs to get to him.

"This isn't the first recovery we've had here ... and it won't be the last," Franklin said.

In 2006, an Ohio man described as experienced died after falling from a ledge in the cave while attempting to climb out a particularly tricky exit.

Though Sloans Valley is a favorite cave system for spelunkers, inexperienced cavers are discouraged from attempting to navigate it, Franklin said.

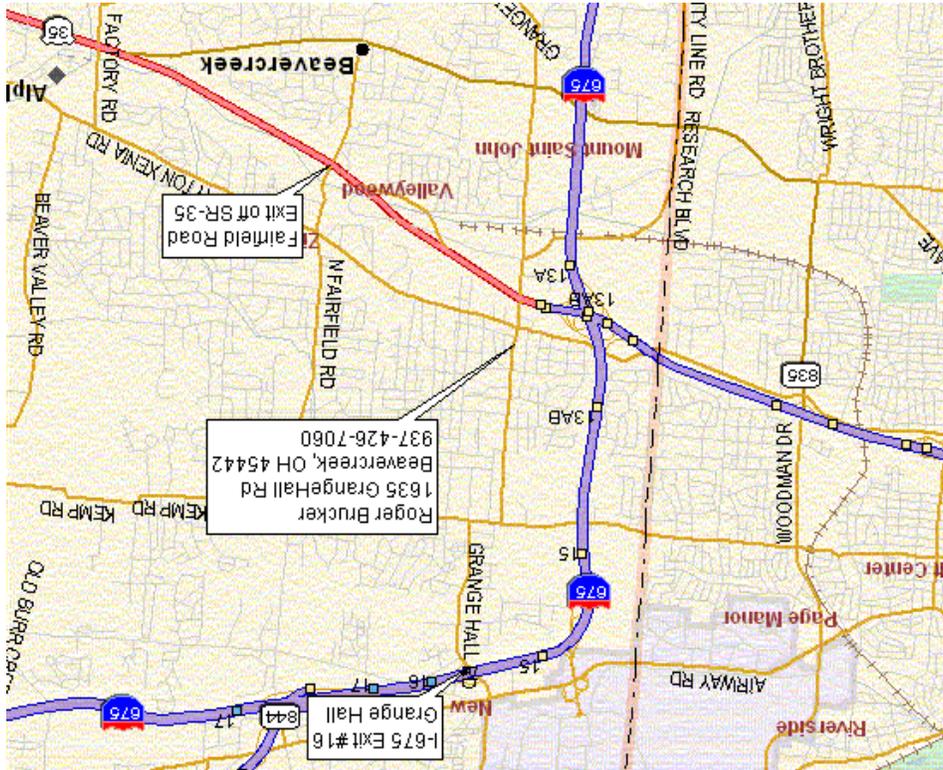
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# Photos from the DUG Christmas Party

Courtesy of Traci Hacker





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# FIRST CLASS

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