

# The Carbide Courier

The Dayton Underground Grotto  
*of the National Speleological Society*



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**GROTTO MEETINGS**

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month. Meeting locations may vary, so check the DUG web and Facebook pages for details.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DUG.NSS>

### Find Us On the Web:

- [www.dugcaves.com](http://www.dugcaves.com)
- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DUG.NSS>
- [www.twitter.com/DUGCaves](http://www.twitter.com/DUGCaves)
- <https://plus.google.com>

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#### **MEMBERSHIP INFO**

3 Annual membership is \$15 per individual, \$20 per family, or \$7.50 for  
 4 full-time students. Memberships  
 6 renewable on January 1st. Dues can  
 be mailed to the membership committee  
 chairman:

7  
 John Cassidy  
 7 414 Michigan Ave.  
 Troy, OH 45373

8  
 Please make check payable to:  
 10 Dayton Underground Grotto

**Cover Photo:** Grotto vice chairman, James Clements, prepares the Wormfeast turkey dinner.

You can also pay with PayPal.



<http://www.dugcaves.com/membership-and-renewals.html>

Volume 23, Issue 8

September 2016

*The Carbide Courier* is on-line and available for download from the Dayton Underground Grotto website. The newsletter is published monthly. Submissions must be sent to the editor by Friday preceding the last week of the month. Send submissions to [mkhood@woh.rr.com](mailto:mkhood@woh.rr.com).

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## Calendar of Events

September 9-11 Caver Appreciation Weekend at Great Saltpetre Preserve

September 11 RKC Fall Meeting, 10am, at Great Saltpetre Preserve

September 11 Regular grotto membership meeting, 7pm, at Stebbins High School Student Activity Center.

September 24 White Collar Dinner at GSP. Volunteers needed. See page 7 for more information.

October 1-2 Midwest Outdoor Experience, Eastwood MetroPark, Dayton, OH

October 9 Regular grotto membership meeting, 7pm, at Stebbins High School Student Activity Center.

October 29 NSS Fall Board of Governors Meeting, Sewanee, TN

November 13 Regular grotto membership meeting, 7pm, at Stebbins High School Student Activity Center.



### Get Your Very Own Grotto Patch!

Designed by our very own Tom Cottrell, you too can own one of these handsome patches. They are \$5 each. Contact Tom, to purchase one ([cottrell.thomas@att.net](mailto:cottrell.thomas@att.net)).

We are officially the 184th different NSS affiliated grotto to have produced a patch

*Editor's Note--this is the article about the grotto that was published in the September 2 edition of the Dayton Daily News.*

## Underground Fun - Caving for One an All

By Debbie Juniewicz - Contributing Writer

Posted: 3:05 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, 2016

UG members don't just venture off the beaten path – they travel underneath it.

The Dayton Underground Grotto (DUG) was founded in 1992 to bring together cavers in the Dayton area, promote the ideals of the National Speleological Society (NSS) and build fellowship. DUG is one of 260 NSS-affiliated chapters worldwide.

Riverside resident Mike Hood is a charter member of DUG and a past president of the National Speleological Society. Hood has been caving for more than four decades.

"I grew up in Southern Indiana and, when I was 14, my family started dragging me to caves," he said.

It wasn't long, however, before Hood was hooked.

Caving can be as adventurous as you want it to be.

"I found it fascinating – it's a totally different environment, a different world," Hood said. "The sense of exploration, not knowing what's around the next corner, is very exciting."

### CAVING BASICS

Caving – also referred to as spelunking – is the exploration of non-commercial cave systems. There are no wide staircases, brightly lit pathways or gift shops. Caving can involve

climbing and crawling, getting wet and muddy can be part of the adventure.

Members of the Dayton Underground Grotto have been caving together since 1992.

"You can make it as easy or as hard as you want to," Hood said. "It's like running. You can go for a one-mile fun run or you can run a marathon."

Caves with guided tours can give you a taste of the fascinating underground world at a leisurely pace and with little exertion. If that taste leaves you hungry for more, caving might be for you.

Beginners might start with some crawling, while experienced cavers may rappel into 1,000-foot pit to begin their adventure.

"Hard-core caving can take a lot of endurance and stamina," Hood said. "You could be down there for 18-20 hours, it can be really rigorous."

But it doesn't have to be.

"We have members from about 19 or 20 years old to well into their 80s," Hood said. "There are no special qualifications. Anyone who is interested can do it."

### GETTING STARTED

Think caving might be for you? Taking a trip with Dayton Underground Grotto members is a great way to find out. DUG members go caving primarily in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, West Virginia, Alabama and Georgia, as well as Ohio.

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DUG has some extra gear, so first-timers don't have to make a financial investment before they know if it's for them. If it is an activity you want to pursue, a basic caving helmet and light will be among your first purchases.

Regular grotto meetings are open to anyone and are held on the second Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Stebbins High School Student Activity Center – the next meeting is Sept. 11. More information can also be found on the DUG website at [www.dugcaves.com/](http://www.dugcaves.com/) or on the Dayton Underground Grotto Facebook page.

## **Has Any of your Information Changed??**

- **Address?**
- **Telephone?**
- **E-Mail?**
- **Joined the NSS?**
- **Other?**

**If so, please make sure you update your information on the DUG web page. Go to the “Members-Only” section and click on the “Update Your Information” button. Don't have the Members-Only password? No problem, just go to [www.dugcaves.com](http://www.dugcaves.com) and click on the “Request the Members-Only Password”**

## **Grotto Committees in Need of Chairs**

The following committee chairman openings are being advertised in accordance with Grotto Act 06-02.

- Conservation Committee
- Landowner Relations Committee
- Youth Groups Committee



Members interested in chairing any of these committees should contact the grotto chairman.



## Skylight Preserve Information

On April 29, 2016, The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Acquired Ownership of the Skylight Dome and Hurricane Pit entrances to Pine Hill Cave.

**Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make this purchase happen!**

To also encourage one-time donations at the following amounts, we have established the following "Thank You" gifts for donors:

\$50 - Skylight or Hurricane Bumper Sticker

\$100 - Buy a Piece of the Pit (Hurricane or Skylight) with a map showing the location

\$200 - "Skylight Preserve" T-shirt

\$500 - Personalized Mug (designed and donated by *Pam Duncan Studios*)

We hope you are as excited as we are to own and keep open these classic Rockcastle County domes and pits.

To find out more information, please visit this website: <http://www.rkci.org/skylight/default.htm>



## Dinner in the Mountain Fundraiser

Greetings,

The Dinner in the Mountain fundraiser is only about 3 weeks away. This is a fancy catered dinner in the cave to raise funds for RKC to buy and maintain their properties and raise funds for GSP's needs, such as shelter roof, tractor, upper driveway replacement, and to get our guests interested in our long term plan of building education center.

The preserve had nearly 5000 visitors in the past year when you add up the school field trips, scouts, church groups and open house. This is not a huge event, but a special event with some important people attending. Our guests will be paying \$150 for the dinner and entertainment and we only expect to sell between 50 and 100 tickets.

GCG has agreed to be a major sponsor of the event. If COG, BGG, or DUG are interested in being a sponsor, or want to attend, go to: [www.musicinthemountain.com](http://www.musicinthemountain.com) for information and tickets.

We need at least 25 volunteers for this event to help get tables, chairs and catering equipment into the cave, plus, park cars, take tickets, and to serve as ushers to take our guests into Echo Auditorium. We have agreed to allow our onsite volunteers to buy a ticket for the basic cost of the meal, which is \$35.00 per seat/plate.

Since this is going to be a first-class event (well, about as classy as you can get for a cave), we are asking volunteers to wear a white dress shirt and bow tie.

I will have some bow ties available in case you don't have one.

You do not have to buy a meal to volunteer, but if you do want to enjoy the meal and show you must let me know by Sept 10, caver appreciation weekend, so I can let the caterer know.

Thanks for supporting RKC and GSP.

Bob Dobbs  
[513-265-8705](tel:513-265-8705)

## Ergor Reports on Ear Bats

By Ergor Rubreck

Previously I reported on vegetable bats in Guatemala -- eaters of turnips, parsnips, and rutabagas. As an internationally known and admired authority on cave bats, I'd like to correct some misapprehensions about bats and reveal some new information. Many people think fruit bats are the largest members of the bat community because of their reputation for carrying off whole watermelons and bananas. However, fruit bats do not tangle in your hair, as some women fear. Louisville Slugger bats are

not flesh and blood bats. Bats live in caves but not in doors -- unless they live in hollow core doors.

While leading a caving expedition in Bhutan I discovered ear bats, which are undoubtedly the smallest of bats. Most are solitary bats, although some are colonial bats. How can bats live in human ears, you may ask? Bhutan is a high country, not to be confused with Bessarabia

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Notice from the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Management Committee

### Pets

Over the years the GSP committee has been dealing with steady complaints and incidences involving dogs. We have tried to be fair and conscientious about this issue knowing that GSP is a great place to let your pet enjoy the outdoors with you. The GSP management plan states the following:

“...Pets must be kept on a leash or well controlled at all times, or otherwise restrained. All pets must have current inoculations for rabies as prescribed by the camper's state of residence. **(Kentucky Administrative Regulations 304 KAR 1:040)** **The main shelter house and scout shelter are to be used as eating areas or gathering places. Please be considerate of other people using the shelters. For example, keep pets at a distance during times of heavy use...**”

Not everyone loves dogs and not every dog loves everyone else. Altercations between people and dogs and between dogs themselves can get very unpleasant, even harmful, very quickly. In spite of GSP committee's best efforts to deal inclusively and conscientiously with this issue, bad encounters have persisted. Another incident under the main shelter was presented to the committee and we were asked to address this problem again.

Do not bring your pet under the shelter when it is obvious they are not welcome, especially during meal times or whenever a large crowd is present. A quiet little lap dog is one thing, but be aware: if you have a large dog, a noisy dog, rambunctious dog - these are traits that are frequently off-putting to others. Respect the right of others who prefer not to interact with them or be bothered by their distracting behavior. And is there anyone who does not mind stepping in dog poop? Do not have an unleashed dog at or near the caretaker's premises. If you must bring a service dog or other trained animal to assist with a disability please contact a committee member. We are not making new rules about pets, but we are asking pet owners to be respectful of the rules we already have in place and be aware and be considerate.

Thanks for your cooperation.



(Continued from Page 7)

(formerly), and the altitude is unfriendly to most species. Diminutive species survive best because of their low energy requirement. The average adult ear bat measures 0.00015 mm, so many can live at once in the average ear, particularly at such high altitudes.

Ear bats exhibit a reverse cycle. Whereas most bats forage at night for insects, ear bats reverse this cycle, sleeping at night and venturing on feeding excursions in daytime. That is why they have never been detected before my discovery of them. How many doctors look in people's ears with an otoscope at night? In the daytime, when ENT medical exams take place, ear bats are absent.

For many years ear bats were suspected to exist, but never proven. "She has bats in her belfry," goes the anecdotal phrase. Or, "He is acting batty." The excreta of ear bats is termed "ear wax." Bats in many parts of the world exhibit white nose syndrome. Ear bats experience runny nose syndrome. If you have suffered from runny nose at any time, rest assured, your ear bats are suffering worse!

Our expedition entomologist, Dr. Seymore Avians, Ph.D. first called the creature to my attention. "Dr. Rubreck!" he exclaimed one day at the dial of his audiometer, "I detect a high pitch sound at 72,500 Hz. and 0.0013 dB." I left my dowsing station in Bishop's Cave, and hurried to his post in Level 5. Could it be the sound of a mite peeing on a washcloth? The source of the sound was too small to be seen in my microscope, so I switched to the binocular microscope and there it was -- a precocious juvenile male ear bat emitting his first mating call to attract females.

Since then I have discovered ear bats in practically every cave and caver. In North America *histoplasmosis* immunity has been found in most inhabitants of the American Midwest. Their initial introduction to histo was probably dismissed as 24-hour flu. Ear bat victims have just assumed they had a runny nose, never suspecting their ear bat infestation. When they blew their nose they obliterated whole colonies of ear bats without realizing they were bringing an entire colony of ear bats to the knife edge of extinction.

Fortunately, ear bats have no deleterious effect on humans beyond the benign symptoms of nose drip and ear wax. Unlike their larger brethren, ear bats do not eat insects, cross-pollinate crops, or carry fruit and blood from place to place. They may have no use.

Acarologists have told me that their study of mites has revealed untold millions of hitherto unclassified varieties, such that one might earn a PhD before lunch investigating but one new species. Mites are as small as ear bats, so it is no wonder they have not been exhaustively investigated. An exhaustive investigation of ear bats might poison them with carbon monoxide. Probably not a good idea because of the well-known scientific principle of serendipitous co-prosperity spheres of living.

Since I have not yet submitted my paper, *Ear Bats of Bhutan's Bishop Cave*, to a peer-reviewed journal, I can relate here some particulars of our expedition. The caves of Bhutan are little known and not well studied. Local folk wisdom holds that Bhutan's caves are cursed and that both of them doom their explorers to death. The history of Bhutan, as found in a monastery library, confirms that in 1811 two teams of explorers entered Bishop Cave and Knight Cave. By 1911, when the history was written, all the members of both

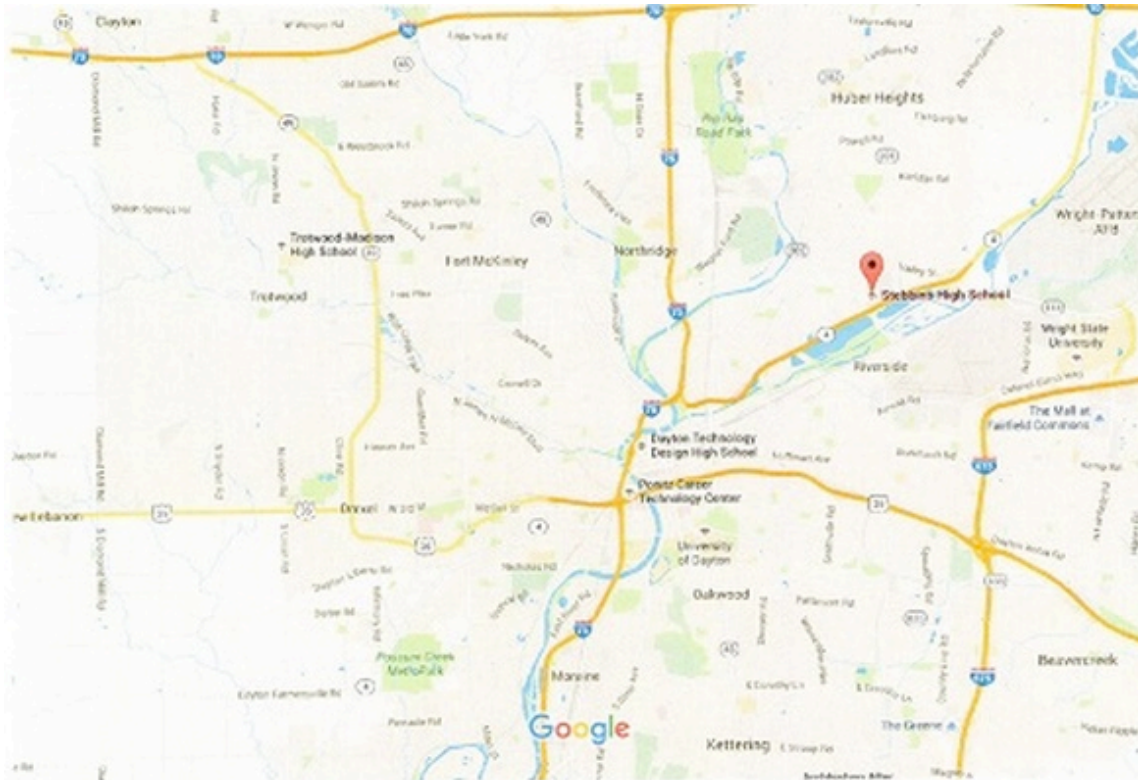
teams were dead. Undaunted and bereft of superstition, I applied for and received an UNESCO grant for 235,300 Euros to mount the subject expedition. I recruited Dr. Avians, entomologist; Ms Klima deRope, Vertical Specialist; Sr Pablo Escobar, Pharmaceutical Investigator, and Ms Shriill Scream, Media Relations -- internationally famous and wonderful cave exploration experts to accompany the *Ergor Rubreck Expedition to Bhutan*. We left New York on February 28, 2004, landed at Thimpu Municipal Airport, and returned the following November 31. We

surveyed and mapped both caves and made several notable discoveries. The first report on ear bats is one of those. The second was the existence of light water on Level 5 of Bishop Cave (subject of a forthcoming report of water in the form of cotton candy), and crystallized skulls of cave bears.

Those wishing to join my next cave expedition are invited to download an application form from [www.WTFexpeditions.com](http://www.WTFexpeditions.com) (World Traveler Fame Expeditions) and include a PayPal fee of \$85 US for H&S.

## Location of the September 11 Grotto Meeting

Walter E. Stebbins High School Student Activity Center  
 1900 Harshman Rd.  
 Riverside, OH 45431  
 7pm





**The Dayton Underground Grotto**  
 Of the National Speleological Society  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**  
 www.dugcaves.com

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

NAME:		NSS NUMBER: <i>(if member)</i>	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP CODE:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
HOME PHONE NUMBER:	CELL PHONE NUMBER:	WORK PHONE NUMBER:	
I AM 18 YEARS OF AGE, OR OLDER: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			

MEMBERSHIP TYPE AND ANNUAL DUES (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIVIDUAL (\$15)(\$7.50 if after July 1 <sup>st</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIVIDUAL STUDENT (full time students only)(\$7.50)(\$3.75 if after July 1 <sup>st</sup> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY (family members must reside in same household)(\$20)(\$10 if after July 1 <sup>st</sup> ) List family members:

**NOTE: Members who join and are not NSS members are associate members and may not vote or hold grotto office. NSS members are regular members and have all grotto privileges.**

WILL THE DAYTON UNDERGROUND GROTTTO BE YOUR PRIMARY NSS AFFILIATION? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
---

DO YOU WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE GROTTTO YAHOOGROUPS E-MAIL LIST? Send e-mail to <a href="mailto:dugcaves-subscribe@yahoogleups.com">dugcaves-subscribe@yahoogleups.com</a>
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian if under age 18 Date

**Make checks payable to the Dayton Underground Grotto**  
 Mail completed form and payment to John Cassidy, 414 Michigan Ave., Troy, OH 45373