

# 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>

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- 3 Annual membership is \$15 per individual, \$20 per family, or \$7.50 for
- 4 full-time students. Memberships renewable on January 1st. Dues can
- 5 be mailed to the membership committee chairman:
- 7 John Cassidy
- 8 414 Michigan Ave.  
Troy, OH 45373

**Cover Photo:** DUGsters, friends and family of Joe and Helen Windows met at their gravesite on September 3rd to hold a “Remembrance of Joe.” Joe was a charter member of the grotto and was affectionately known as the “Father of the Grotto.”

Please make check payable to: Dayton Underground Grotto  
You can also pay with PayPal.



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

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*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 9-10 - Caver Appreciation Weekend - Great Saltpetre Preserve. The September grotto meeting will be held at GSP that weekend.

October 5-8 TAG Fall Cave-In

October 7-8 Subaru Outdoor Experience at Eastwood MetroPark. The October grotto meeting will be held at this event.

November 12 - Regular membership meeting, 7pm, at Walter E. Stebbins High School Student Activity Center. Nomination of officers for 2018 held at this meeting.

December 10 - Regular membership meeting, 7pm, at Walter E. Stebbins High School Student Activity Center. Election of officers for 2018 will be held at this meeting.



### 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

**Winner of the 2016 NSS Convention Symbolic Emblem "Caver's Choice" Award**

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## 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
- Safety and Rescue Committee
- Youth Groups Committee



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

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## 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” button.



## September Grotto Meeting

The September grotto meeting will be held at the Caver Appreciation weekend at the Great Saltpetre Preserve, September 9-10.

## Bob Dobbs Cave

By Linda Mullins-Johnson

*Editor's Note: Here is another "flash from the past" from the early days of the grotto. I'm not sure what issue this was originally printed in, but I'm guessing around 1993 or 1994.*

Sheila Osipov  
 Kim Good  
 Jill Weller  
 Harry Goepel  
 Bob Green  
 Linda Johnson  
 Scott Sweet  
 Ron Crawford  
 Dennis ?  
 Bob Dobbs & Son  
 Mike Wuerth  
 Craig Hamm  
 and a few others.....

Friday Night:

The trip began with bad weather and alot of ice, but we had the cave bug and we were bound for Rockcastle County. We arrived around 10:00pm at the Best Western and we all piled into one room. A few of us began preparing for the next day.

Saturday:

We all met at Jeans for breakfast. Ron Crawford and friends were to meet us at Jeans and Ron discussed showing a few around GSP grounds and do some ridge walking while another group would go into BOB DOBBS CAVE, finally the group had all arrived, there were 12 to 14 people show up for the events.

We all geared up and proceeded to walk along the ridge, while Ron and a few others climbed up the hill, in hopes of finding a new hole. The rest of us followed the road, lead by Bob Dobbs himself. We had to get off the road and do a little cross country walking, after walking through the snow and bushes we finally find Bob Dobbs Cave.

The groups broke up here and proceeded with the daily plans, Ron Dennis, Mike, and a few others started their ridge walk and the rest of us headed into the cave. The cave has about a 15 to 20 foot drop that you can climb down when you first go into the cave, the group all slowly entered the cave and proceeded down a passage. Sheila and Bob Dobbs headed

down a different route. They headed for a tight slot and off they went.

Harry, Scott, Bob, Jill, Kim & myself all followed the passage that wasn't so tight. It lead us to an area that had formations that reminded you of a jail. We all had to guide each other through this area to avoid damaging any formations. We all made it through without doing any damage. Once through we all paused for a moment to enjoy the beautiful formations and then started down the passage and up to the left through some nice flowstone. Kim made it past the flowstone fast, while it took me awhile to wait for the Cave Cricket Crossing. Once through we went down a nice corkscrew to the bottom of the pit. Kim, Harry, Jill and myself was wondering where Scott and Bob were, we finally heard Bob coming down the corkscrew grunting and he was followed by Scott who had waited behind for him. We then headed through a canyon that had a few bats and we all checked out their little claws.

Jill, Kim, Harry and myself continued through the passage

and up a ledge that led us into a crawl. Scott and Bob finally met up with us in the crawlway, and we began to tell Scott about the solid white room. For some reason he did not believe us. We all began our journey back the same route we came in. We finally reached the entrance and I decided to go ahead and go out and enjoy the sun & the snow. Kim, Jill, Scott, Harry and Bob all decide to hang out in the cave, and poke around. While waiting on the rest of the group to come out Ron Crawford and his small group returned from their ridge walk. I guess the ridge walk went well. They all had smiles on their faces.

I decided to go ahead and walk back to Great Saltpetre, Bob came out of the cave and decided to walk back with me.

After reaching GSP I went ahead and built a fire to keep warm. The other group returned to GSP about 50 minutes later. Ron and a few others decided to clean their cave clothes by jumping into nature's washing machine with their cave clothes on. We all cleaned up and decided to go and grab a bite to eat at Apollo's Pizza and discuss plans for Sunday. On the way to Apollo's Pizza we all went past Mullins Spring Cave, and noticed that the water was very high in the cave. We proceeded down the road and noticed a caver coming out of High Water Cave, but for some reason the caver had a familiar helmet. It was Jim Odom covered in mud, we said our hello's and Kim, Harry, Jill and myself all ran down the road to take a peek at Arthur

Singleton's Cave. On the way back from the cave we noticed everyone was leaving us. So we had to run and catch up with Sheila in her cave truck. Thanks for waiting Sheila.

Sunday:

We all met at Jeans for breakfast and broke up into groups, Scott, Kim, Jill, Craig and Mike all went to CCIC. Sheila and I headed for the Boils to check them out, but they weren't doing much, so we went and poked around Red Hill.

And that wraps up the Bob Dobbs Cave Trip. If you get a chance, and someone will show you where this cave is, go and see it.



**The grotto will have a booth at this event again this year (October 7-8). We'll be in need of volunteers to help out at the booth. Look for more information to come.**

<http://outdoorx.metroparks.org/>

## Ergor's Cave Science Medal

By Ergor Rubreck

Perhaps the news has to yet hit North America. So I modestly inform all readers that I was recently awarded the International Congress of Speleology First Class Fellow Medal in Speleoscience. I have scored many breakthroughs in cave science in the past. Too many to recount here. But in this era of fake science, it is refreshing to be openly acknowledged worldwide as the founder of Speleonerology.

Many so-called "-ologies" are absolutely bogus, such as astrology and phrenology. Speleonerology, however is based on fact. It is what we scientists call "a reproducible science," whose tenants can be checked by responsible scientists and peer reviewed without flummery.

My stunning breakthrough was the discovery that cave length is perfectly predicted by cave **name** length. Every caver knows that caves with few letters in their name have never contended for length. You can tell at once that Short Cave and Nice Cave (4 letters each) will never vie for the longest cave. Mammoth (7 letters) Cave for years was considered the

longest cave by many. It was when I heard of West Virginia's Heddricks (9) Cave that I began to see the relationship in full clarity.

When Organ Cave in WV was found to be connected, the name jumped to Organ-Heddricks Cave (14 letters). Isn't that inconsistent with history? My scientific observation was confirmed, however, when the Flint Ridge Cave System was announced as the world's longest. Skeptics pointed out that Flint Ridge was only 10 letters long, so surely I was mistaken.

No! The Flint Ridge Cave System was made from the connection of Crystal Cave, Unknown Cave, Colossal Cave, and Salts Cave. Count 'em, 27 letters in the name of the combined cave. Beyond that, if you use the name Floyd Collins Crystal Cave, it would add up to 12 plus 27 for a total of 39. But I concluded it would be hardly fair to extend the length of Short Cave just by adding the name of its discoverer Evangeline MacGillicuddy (23 plus 5 = 28.) Hence, I formulated Ergor's Rule No. 1: *Names of persons living or dead or*

*places may not be added to a cave's name to enhance its perceived length.*

No science is worth its name without rules. I visited Jewel Cave in South Dakota last month. Our guide said an exploration party was deep in the cave surveying. She said that one day such a caver party might find a connection to Wind Cave, making it, "one of the longest in the world." What a bozo (or boza): Jewel and Wind (9 letters) is never going to be the world's longest cave! To the Kentucky cave above's 27 letters you now have to add Mammoth, Roppel, Hoover, and Donkey (25 plus 27 = 52 letters). If the nearby caves are ever connected to the longest cave -- Fisher Ridge Cave System and Whigpistle Cave (73 letters!!!) it will be out of reach. Ergor's Rule No. 2: *Caves may be connected to other caves provided they are already named, and the total combined name length is the official scientific indicator of length.* Ergor's Rule No. 3: *Speculative future cave connections may not be claimed as indicative of prophetic potential length reality.*

Astute speleologists worldwide could see that the steady formulation of Speleonerology rules serves to raise this science to a position of rigor and robustitude. And only Ergor Rubreck was the undisputed founder of this science.

I understand an official protest has been filed by the National Geographic Society. They refuse to be bound by the iron rules of Speleonerology.

The NGS published an article about a cave in Uzbekistan called Dark Star (8) and asserted that it might be the world's longest cave! Even if you allow the affixation of the country of origin's name to the cave, it still will not go over 20 letters. There will always be scoffers, I suppose. So bad.

So here is my valuable advice to cavers everywhere: If you want to discover a really long cave, find a cave with nearby

unconnected caves named with 10 or more letters. Connect those caves and you may find your cave and name climbing the List of Long Caves of the World. Also, the Speleonerology principles I have codified have not yet been applied to the Deep Cave List, Most Volume Cave List, Most Diagonal Cave List, or Most Wonderful Cave List. I expect future cave scientists will stand on the shoulders of a giant (hint.)

## Crooked Creek Ice Cave

By Scott Sweet

***Editor's Note: This article was first published in 1993 by the late Scott Sweet. Scott was one of our most beloved, and colorful members who is truly missed to this day.***

Crooked Creek Ice Cave  
Rockcastle County, Kentucky  
Wormfest 1993  
Steve Robinson  
Jim Leichter  
Heather Hilton  
Mark Coluzzi  
Tina Baker  
Carl Orr  
Scott Sweet, Trip Leader and Reporter

We initially entered the lower entrance of this multilevel system and went the easy way (left fork) to the pole ladders leading 18 feet or so straight down. There, only a momentary gaze created an almost unanimous certainty that we should forego the lower level initiation to CCIC. ( Eh, pole ladder just look worst from the top, right? ) Anyway, we quickly exited and walked up the hill to the upper entrance.

There we free climbed down into what I call a '3 way room'. We scanned the map and compass to be relatively sure of the correct passage into our

destination. East, north east, or straight through, was accurate according to our determinations. Proceeding on no more than 50 feet we came to what many consider a most formidable ledge. I have passed it low, and I have passed it high, but I still had to sit before it, take deep breaths, and ponder the safest means past. Soon we all crossed high and proceeded onto and past our next three 'fun' spots.

The first one is simply a narrow pass along a 20 foot steep slope slanting directly down into a pit surely 40 feet deep with little hope of remembering if we happened

to .....! Well, with that behind us and a little stooping and crawling we stood and walked up to the very top edge of what I think is the 110 foot dome pit referred to on the map - the one that can be seen from the lower level access - which we didn't do this trip. After a moment of awesome silence we swung our packs around out of the way and quickly passed that "little" hole and weaved our way on deeper into the cave. But not much deeper before the next time of decision was upon us. How shall we go around the last of our pit passes, to the right on our feet and perhaps slip and ..... or shall we slither left across abdomen ledge? (Belly crawls usually feel more secure cause you can't fall down when your already flat, right?) So off came the packs and nudging them ahead we single filed across the lip. I think everyone took a good look over the edge but not a very long one. I wonder why. (Not!)

The worst was over now - except for maybe getting lost along the many side routes not shown on our edition of the survey map, or getting squeezed to death in one or two the tightest crawls of one's life waiting not far ahead, or unintentionally visiting any number of the lower passages

seen along the way that we could intentionally visit if we had rappelling gear, etc. etc. . But we were to have none of that and before too much longer we were relaxing in the Big Room with food and drink. Did I say "relaxing"? I counted only 6. Someone was missing! Where was Mark? He didn't come into the Big Room with every one else. Mark should be here by now. Did he ..... or maybe ...? Phew, there he was crawling out onto a ledge about 25 feet up the north wall of the big room. "Any footprints up there" I called. "Just mine" I think he said with a smile. Now I wanted to be up there too!

We all liked the big room with its curtain wall, high ceiling, and breakdown to explore. Off to the southwest there are a couple of domes with abundant 'plumbers pipe' fossils stuck onto and protruding from the walls. In fact these objects are very abundant in many areas of CCIC and intrigue me as to what they were a few millennia or so ago. After a little rest we all crawled under the curtain and proceeded onto the anticlimactic "sword" room. I would welcome any logical reasoning for naming that the 'sword' room. Actually one small crawlway south left unexplored may lead to a 'sword' room but I have my

doubts. Most of us poked about crawling up, down and all around looking for the tree roots mentioned in the article on CCIC that I passed out before the trip. We didn't see them.

After a while we started back but stopped a few times to explore further and I hot treated to some new sights and tips thanks to my new caving friends. "Have you seen the Antler Room?" someone asked. Well, sure enough the formations in that room off the west side of the main passage looked like Bullwinkle had been there and left something of himself behind. Quite neat. Heather and Mark climbed down into a lower passage while I rested above. After about 15 minutes they climbed back out and after we moved away from that area I heard talk about the thin layer of tiny sea shells they saw down there. I immediately started banging my head purposely against the nearest wall while wailing "I rested up top while they climbed down and found the elusive crinoids!" (Well I know where they climbed down - or was it up?) I learned my lesson and when I saw some of the others begin to explore the passage that leads to the triple domes, I followed. There we left the mapped area and 'discovered' some beautiful

domes and pits and many more 'plumbers' fossils.

After about six hours we'd had lots of stimulation and were ready to see the light. We returned fairly much the same way we came in. However when we arrived at that formidable ledge 50 feet from the entrance 4 of us just couldn't bear to leave, not just yet anyway. So I climbed down that ominous wall and guided the others down. Once down and looking up I realized that I had been there before. About five weeks before my friend Jim and I were trying, at 1:00 in the morning, to find the door out and we finally climbed up that wall to a much welcome departure. And now that nasty ledge was quickly losing its power to scare the gebies out of me and I was glad. ( Anyway, ledges never look as scary from the bottom you know.)

We intended to find and do the infamous phreatic tube but after orienting ourselves on the lower level with a view up the pole ladders we decided we had had enough after all and so we about flew up those ladders - on of which is an old telephone pole and the other a remnant pine tree trunk - and exited with a true sense of satisfied exhilaration. It was a great trip thanks to a really great team. Thanks go to them for making my first official trip leading a truly sweating success!

## More Photos from the “Remember Joe Windows” Gathering





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

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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
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Signature Date

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

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