

# Central Connecticut Grotto

December 2003

The Underground Movement



Photo Scott Welsh

Peter Fabbricciello in Copperhead Cave

The Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) is a happy bunch of folks who enjoy the exploration, conservation and science of caves.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The **Underground Movement** is published monthly by the Central Connecticut Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Reprint permission is granted to the NSS and to other grottos, with Author or Editor permission.

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All cavers are welcome and encouraged to submit articles, photographs, and other items for publication in the CCG. Your contribution would be very much appreciated.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vertical Chair: [Tom Oakes](mailto:vertical@ctcavers.org) 203-888-7355  
[vertical@ctcavers.org](mailto:vertical@ctcavers.org)

#### CCG Meetings:

Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7PM. In Plainville CT., just off route 84 near the junction of route 72 at HRP Associates, 167 New Britain Ave. (rt. 372) Plainville, CT. For info call 860-793-6899 x134. Non Members welcome.

#### Meeting Directions to HRP Associates:

**From Waterbury direction** on I-84 travelling East:  
Take Exit 34 (Crooked Street). Turn left at the end of the ramp.  
At the next light, take a left onto Rte 372 (New Britain Ave).  
Proceed straight through the first light. Immediately after the second light, turn right into the first driveway by the HRP sign.

The front door is on your left, ring the doorbell and when you hear the door buzz - go upstairs.

**-From Hartford direction** on I-84 travelling West (or Rte 72 travelling West):

Exit 33 puts you on Rte 72 West. Move to the right lane and take the first exit - Exit 2 (New Britain Ave Plainville).

As you approach the lights, move into the second lane from the left (labeled Cooke Street).

Turn left at the lights, then immediately turn right into the first driveway by the HRP sign.

The front door is on your left, ring the doorbell and when you hear the door buzz - go upstairs.

#### Dues:

Regular Membership Dues: \$5 per year  
NSS members can also pay \$20 for 5 year membership

CCG Website: The Grotto website is:

[www.ctcavers.org/](http://www.ctcavers.org/)

This is an excellent way to find out what other caving things are going on that come up on short notice as well as review some of the history.

#### NSS Information:

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is the national organization of which CCG is a part. The NSS can be contacted about other caving or national caving information at

[www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)

National Speleological Society  
2813 Cave Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35810-4431

Voice 256-852-1300

Fax 256-851-9241

E-Mail [nss@caves.org](mailto:nss@caves.org)

NSS News submission guidelines may be found at

<http://www.goodearth.com/nssnews/style.html>

#### Calendar of Events:

Trips are not limited to what is on the calendar! Contact fellow grotto members to create your own trips. Let the CCG Editor know in advance to post your trip on the calendar. Also, check the website calendar and

#### December

13 Crossbones Ken Nichols. will be for Next Weekend.

Meet at Emily's 8:30 - 9:00.

Vertical proficiency needed.

Snow shoes may or may not be added advantage.

Stay safe! Stay warm!

Ken can be contacted at [questor9@flash.net](mailto:questor9@flash.net)

16 CCG Meeting, elections and Christmas Party. The gift exchange is expected to be the program with the "three steal limit" in effect.

#### January

20 CCG Meeting (presentation: open)



The CCG MEETING, CHRISTMAS PARTY and ELECTIONS is WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at HRP.

Gift exchange with "three steal limit". Bring a dish to share. Open slide projector for those wanting to show slides.

#### NEW SLETTER CORRECTIONS and RELATED ITEMS:

In November's issue, in Jansen Cardy's NCRC training report, I added Jansen Cardy's name as participating as a student. He was an instructor during the training.

Page numbers started at 17. October's issue had six pages and November's issue had nine pages.

Ray

#### MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING (11/19/2003):

11/19/03 Secretary's Report - (Cheryl Kenez) minutes of last month accepted.

Treasurer's Report - (Bob Simmons) we have \$935.89.

Membership - (Norm Berg) a lot of members are taking advantage of the 5-year membership for \$20.00 deal. He also dropped from the membership list those whose dues were in arrears.

Communication - (Steve Adams) added The Underground Movement to our website.

Safety - (Doug Truitt) nothing new.

Conservation - (Bill Karpowicz) absent

Vertical - (Tom Oakes) absent

Vice Chair - (Bob Jacobs) absent

Chairman - (Jansen Cardy) no report.

New sletter chair - (Ray Keeler) due to the holiday the new sletter was a day late. Ray said "thanks" to all those who contributed to the publication. He will post the new sletter the Tuesday prior to the meeting and will send a link to members instead of an attachment. He sent a query to see if members received the publication. There was also talk about the file size and difficulty in downloading.

Past trips

Ray Keeler, Pete Febroriello and a group of others went to King

Phillips and Queen Anne's caves to see if they were lava tubes. There is not supposed to be any evidence of lava west of the Mississippi River. They also measured Copperhead Cave with a total length of forty-one feet. They found evidence of lava flows.

Peter Febroriello's trip into Clarksville was to check on a large rock ten feet into the entrance that appears to be held up only by grains of sand. This is far more dangerous than the Mystery Cave bypass.

Ray Keeler and Laura Ritter attended a trip to New York City, led by Bob Cohen from MET.

The Jeff visited Indian Oven and ran into a cave for pay group there. Jansen Cardy did Tory Cave while on a lunch break in the area.

#### Old Business

Bats Den in Jug End is closed for the winter. There is unstable breakdown in the cave and potential for rockfall. Bob Simmons talked about an unnamed scary fracture cave on a marble cliff in Mass.

#### New Business

At the Christmas party we will only have future trips, announcements and elections. HRP is unavailable on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> so we will have the party Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> instead. Beverages will be provided. Entertainment will be an open slide show. A media projector and laptop will be available.

Bob Simmons will be the moderator for the nominations committee. The NCC meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Bob Addison's house. There will be a demo of ground penetrating radar, weather permitting.

The grotto will ask Brian Pease to do a talk on his cave radio direction finding at a future meeting, along with screening the documentary he recently starred in.

Congratulations to CCG member Bob Jefferys on becoming an NSS Fellow.

#### Future trips -

Bob Simmons will lead a trip Saturday November 22, 2003 to do a cave survey. The area will be somewhere in the northwest corner of the state.

November 26-29<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Thanksgiving and caving at Schoharie Cabin with Chris Beauchamp.

December 6, 2003 there will be a trip to Tory's Cave and Indian Oven.

December 7, 2003 - vertical practice in Manchester.

Jansen Cardy will host a caving trip to New Zealand the latter part of March 2004. More details to follow.

Between Christmas and January Ray Keeler will be attending a mapping trip to the Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona with permission. E-mail him if you are interested and would like to attend.

Tonight's presentation is an introduction to cave surveying with Bob Simmons.

Meeting adjourned.

Copperhead Cave  
 Hartford Co., CT.  
 Ray Keeler NSS 23245

Participants: Peter Fabbriello, Jansen Cardy,  
 Jeff MacDonald, Laura Ritter, Carl Camoney,  
 Scott Welch, Ralph Welch, Ray Keeler

I had heard through the rumormill of a possible  
 lava tube in Connecticut. Since I do not know of  
 any lava tubes east of the Mississippi River and  
 Peter Fabbriello knew of a couple of entrances  
 in basalt, several of the Central Connecticut  
 Grotto members went on a chilly ridge walk to  
 go look at King Phillips/Queen Anne's and  
 Copperhead Cave. King Phillips/Queen Anne's  
 was mapped in 1968 (Speleo Digest 1969) with  
 the larger King Phillips being from the erosion of  
 a volcanic tuft at the contact of two distinct lava  
 flows.

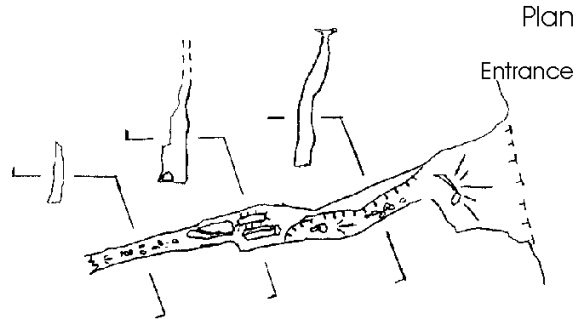
Copperhead Cave is a lava cooling contraction  
 crack with some basalt block slumping. It is  
 located in the north-south trending basalt ridge  
 about 10 miles west of Hartford, CT. and has a  
 surveyed length of 41.5 feet. The cave is at the  
 bottom of an east-facing cliff segment and has a  
 small skylight about halfway through. The cave  
 ends as the crack narrows and rocks fill the  
 remaining space.

Of interest is evidence of three small lava flows  
 at the base of the same cliff just north of the  
 cave. These are seen as classic half circle rock  
 layers with concentric cooling contraction cracks.  
 These flows range from 3 to 5 feet high by seven  
 to nine feet wide.

At this point we can not lay claim to having a  
 lava tube but there is some evidence of pahoehoe  
 being active in the area a long time ago.

# Copperhead Cave

Hartford County, Ct.



length 41.5 ft.  
 depth 22.3 ft.



Surveyed 11/8/2003  
 Peter Febbriello  
 Ray Keeler  
 Jeff MacDonald

drafted Ray Keeler

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Fagin, reporter for New London's The Day wrote a very nice article on the G lory Hole trip (on pages 22 and 23). A link to the article is at:

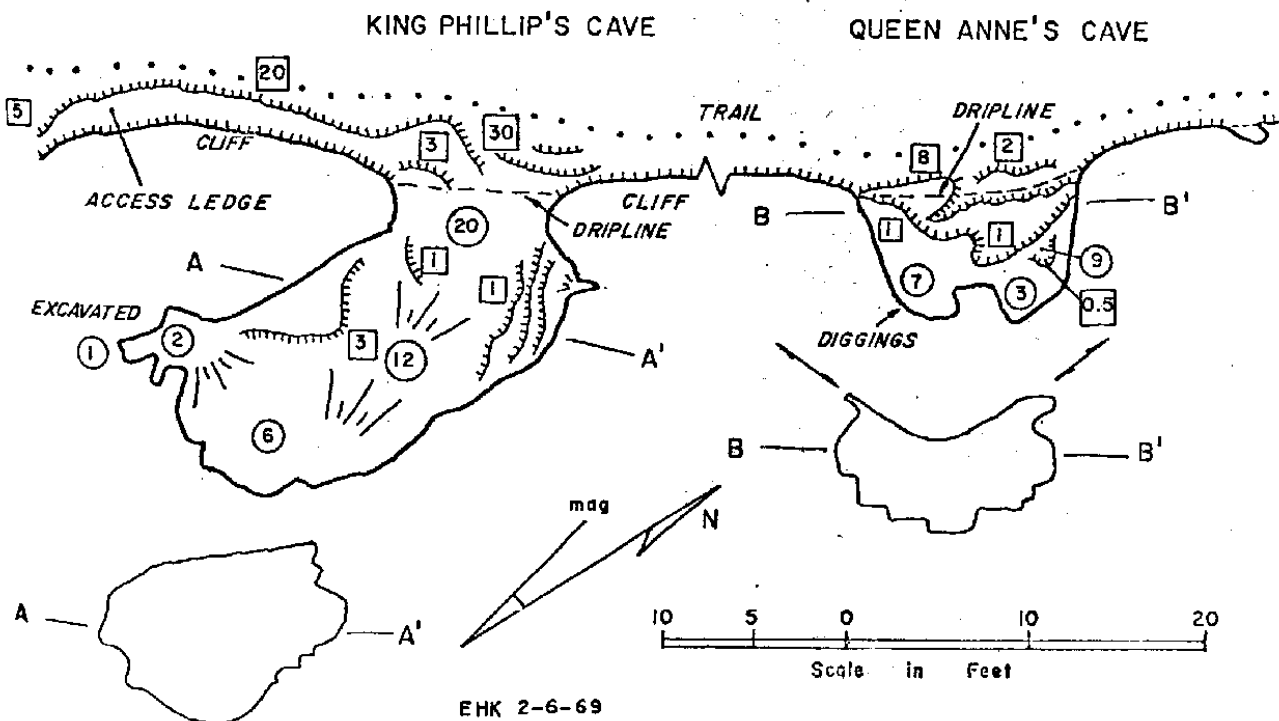
<http://www.theday.com/eng/web/newstand/re.aspx?reIDx=E01013A4-8C8E-4C20-9D9B-E1319667A723>



Scott Welch

King Phillips Cave

**TALCOTT MOUNTAIN CAVES HARTFORD CO., CONN.**  
 GRADE 5 SURVEY JULY 30, 1968  
 E. KASTNING F. RIDOLFO National Speleological Society



## Come caving in New Zealand!

Jansen Cardy

I am willing to host trips and assist with accommodation and sightseeing for any cavers that decide to make the long journey. The ideal time form is between March 20th and early April, 2004.

You would be flying into Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, and my home town. It will be late summer, so expect temperatures in the low 20s Celsius (around 70 F) with moderate humidity, and a little cooler at night. It's a great time for the beach, hiking, and enjoying the sights. There is plenty of entertainment to enjoy, including casinos, bars, restaurants and clubs. And of course, caves.

There are numerous small lava tubes within the city area, and on the offshore islands. A few hours drive and you are in the Waitomo area, the focus of most caving in the North Island. Rolling green hills disguise an extensive limestone karst, very similar to West Virginia. But these caves not only have fantastic formations, they also contain small creatures unique to this part of the world. Millions of glow-worms create awesome star-like effects on the ceiling of many larger caverns. Cave temperature is about 55 F.

The preferred accommodation in Waitomo is a local caving club hut with power, water, and bunk beds. The club may have some group gear available to us, but personal caving equipment including vertical equipment and a wetsuit should be brought. The wetsuit is essential for Black Water Rafting. For those who prefer carbide lighting, local supplies are available. To look at some pretty pictures, check out <http://www.asg.org.nz/photogallery.asp>

The US dollar currently buys just over \$1.50 NZ, so local goods and services should be comparatively cheap. Imported items may not be so cheap. Travelling to New Zealand and back will take about 24 hours each way, so plan to stay for a while to make it worth the flying time. There are plenty of ways to see NZ on a variety of budgets, like adventure tours, backpacker accommodation and bed-and-breakfasts. Don't forget your credit card.

If this interests you, please contact Jansen Cardy at [jansencardy@hotmail.com](mailto:jansencardy@hotmail.com).

## Glorious Hole, Fairfield Co. CT.

Ray Keeler NSS 23245

Participants (in no particular order): Bob Simmons, Tom Simmons, Chris Beauchamp, Michelle Chappel, Jeff McDonald, Laura Ritter, Jansen Cardy, Peter Febboriello, Ray Keeler, Steve Fagin (the reporter), Carl Camoney, Steve Adams

Bob Simmons prepared an "Intro to Surveying" class at the last meeting and then took us to Glorious Hole for the mapping practical portion.

Glorious Hole is a small cave at the head of the head of valley in a popular Connecticut caving area. The grotto has over three decades of caving and digs in the valley. The cave is formed in gneiss and a very powdery malleable.

The large, impressive entrance in the ridge slope has a short climb down to a nice walking sized entrance room. A short climb and along this trend leads to a belly crawl and a dripping, down sloping constriction. Chris Beauchamp pushed this and after a short dig was able to squeeze through and slither up into the Porcupine Potty Room with scat on the floor. Tom was able to fit and the two of them were able to pull the survey tape until it became too tight.

In the Entrance Room on the far wall (north) is an awkward climb into a belly crawl which leads to a short parallel joint. The left ends after a bridge forces one to lay in the water to get through. The Jeff says this kind of task does not encourage those helping with the survey to look forward to the next survey adventure (grin).

Chris and Tom were able to fit down the drain in the bottom of the Entrance Room and make a couple of survey shots.

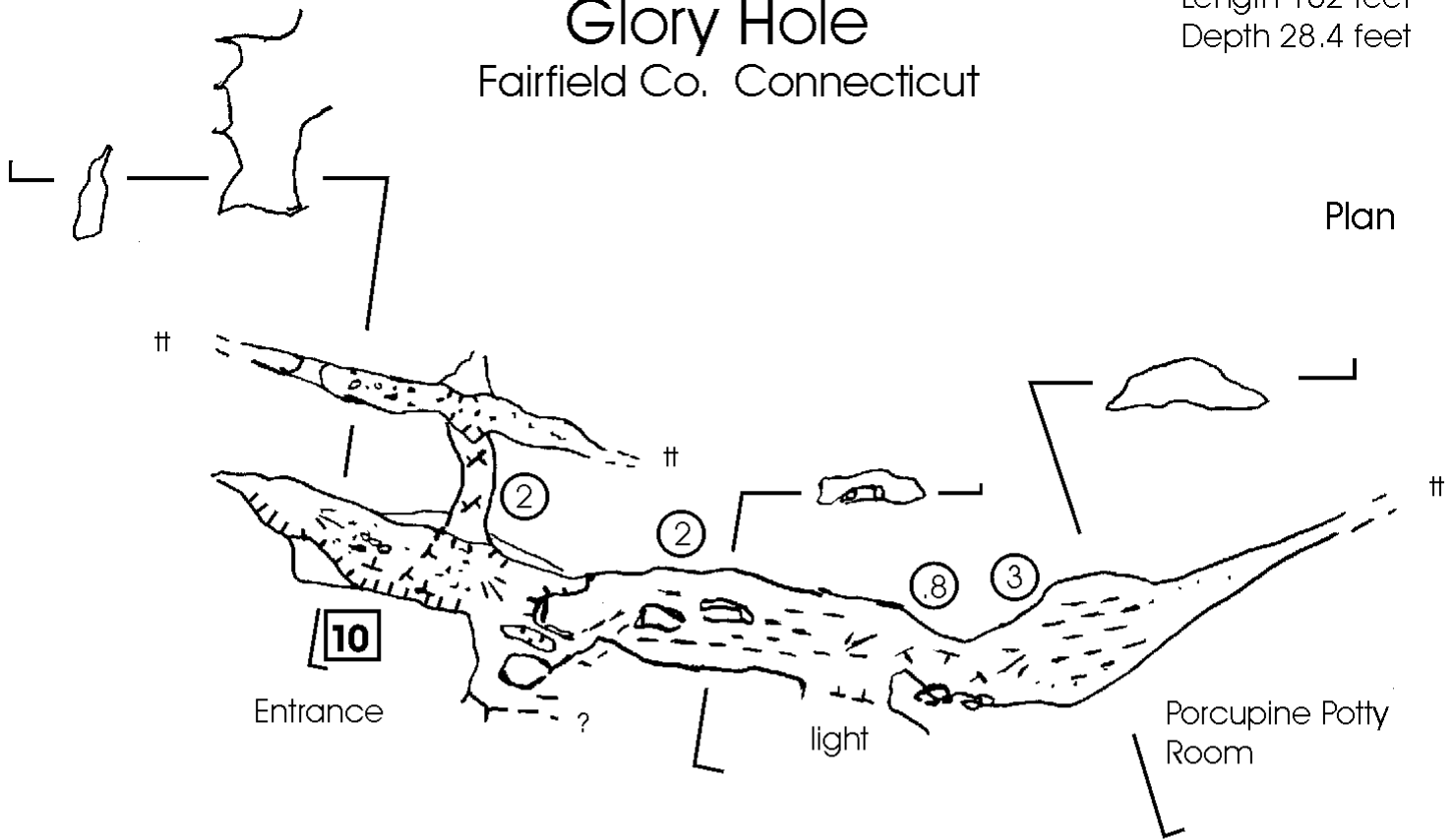
All in all the cave has 152 feet of survey traverse length and is 28.4 feet deep.



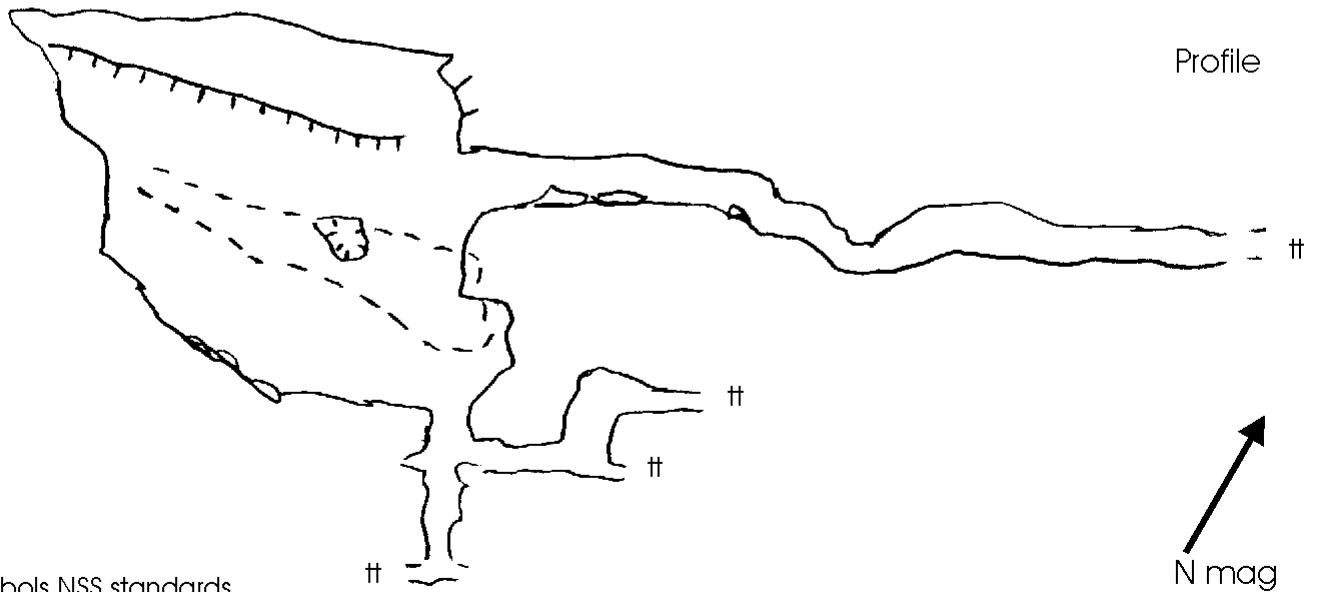
# Glory Hole

Fairfield Co. Connecticut

Length 152 feet  
Depth 28.4 feet



Plan



Profile

symbols NSS standards

Suunto and tape survey  
Central Connecticut Grotto  
11/22/2003

CCG: Bob Simmons, Tom Simmons,  
Chris Beauchamp, Jeff MacDonald,  
Jansen Cardy, Ray Keeler

0 10.0 ft

drafted Ray Keeler