



Central Connecticut Grotto

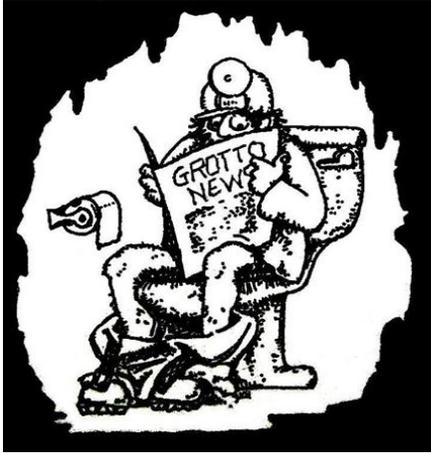
Underground Movement

November 2004



Ed Lucas is hoisted out of Pittsford Ice Cave during rescue training in Vermont last month
Photo by Jansen Cardy

The Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) invites you to join us in the exploration, conservation and science of caves



The Underground Movement is published monthly by the Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Reprint permission requires the approval of the Author or UM Editor.

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Anyone can submit articles, photographs, and other items for publication. Please contribute!

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CCG Website

The CCG website is at www.ctcavers.org



This is an excellent way to keep informed about caving events that come up at short notice, and to review some of our Grotto history and photos.

CCG Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month, starting at 7pm. These are reasonably informal, and generally consist of a short business meeting followed by a caving presentation. Summer meetings are usually held at a member's house in Southington; please contact any CCG Officer for further information. Meetings for the remainder of the year are held at HRP Associates in Plainville. Non-members are always welcome.

Meeting Directions

HRP Associates
167 New Britain Road
Plainville, CT 06062
Contact Bob Simmons on (860) 793-6899 ext 134

- From Waterbury direction, take I-84 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.

- From Hartford direction, take I-84 West (or Rte 72 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).
As you go through the light, immediately turn right into the driveway by the HRP sign.

The front door is on your left. Ring the doorbell, enter the building when you hear the door buzz, and take the stairs up to the second floor.

CCG Dues

Regular Membership Dues: \$5 per year
(NSS members can opt to pay \$20 for a 5-year membership)

Associate Membership Dues: \$2 per year
(Non-voting – intended for family, youth, or full-time student members)

Institutional Membership No Charge – yearly renewal
(Open to educational, scientific and conservation organizations)

National Speleological Society

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is the national organization of which CCG is a part. CCG members are encouraged to join the NSS. The NSS website is at www.caves.org

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NSS News submission guidelines can be found at www.caves.org/pub/nssnews/style.html

Calendar of Events

Events are not limited to what is on the calendar! Contact fellow grotto members to create your own trips. Please notify the Editor in advance about any new trips, or changes to trips, so the calendar can be kept accurate. Important CCG activity dates are noted in **bold**.

NOVEMBER 2004

- November 14 – NCC Executive Meeting
- November 16** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM
- November 20** – Gages trip with Ken Nichols
- November 21 to 27 – Mexico Expedition, contact Chris Nicola
- November 25 to 28** – Thanksgiving Turkey Fry at Schoharie Cabin

DECEMBER 2004

- Either December 10 to 13, or 31 to January 3** – OFMC 3 (Old Fat Man Caving) trip to West Virginia with Jeff MacDonald
- December 5 – NCC Board Meeting at Howe Caverns
- December 11** – Clarksville trip with Steve Adams
- December 14** – CCG Christmas Party at HRP Associates 7 PM
- December 31 to January 4 – West Virginia caving with Chris Nicola

JANUARY 2005

- January 4** – CCG Planning Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM
- January 18** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM

FEBRUARY 2005

- February 15** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM

MARCH 2005

- March 15** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM

APRIL 2005

- April 19** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM

MAY 2005

- May 3** – CCG Planning Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM
- May 17** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7 PM
- May 20 to 22** – Spring NRO (date to be confirmed)



Minutes of the CCG Monthly Meeting

October 2004

10/19/04

Secretary's Report – (Cheryl J. Kenez) minutes accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report – (Norm Berg) paid the USAIF dues of \$75.00 which leaves a balance of about \$1200.00 in the bank.

Vice Chair – (Steve Adams) got a video for tonight on vertical training and we had the planning session.

Communications – (Web Monkey Jeff MacDonald) there is still a web out there.

Membership – (Laura Ritter) no report

Conservation – (Carl Carmony) talked about Clarksville Day.

Editor – (Carl Carmony) we will need a new editor.

Trips – Oct 10th to Bat's Den with Bob Simmons. Tried to contact the owner of Cathole and found a new cave above Bat's Den.

The Web Monkey went to Green Briar in West Virginia and found the connection.

Clarksville Day and Thatcher Park attended by Norm Berg, a co-worker friend of his, their kids and Cheryl Kenez.

Old Business – Norm Berg thanked Garth for looking into the repairs of the raft. It was motioned and seconded to put the raft on eBay as is. Bob Simmons will offer the boat to cavers first then offer it to eBay.

We discussed purchasing a rock removal kit (microblasting) and decided the person should make their own case.

The upcoming elections will be in December at the Christmas Party. Bob Simmons will send out a notice via email.

Norm Berg talked to Bob Jacobs about doing training at the climbing practice place in Manchester. Norm Berg will meet and talk to them first.

Feedback about the spring NRO was let's run it. Tentative date is May 20th – 22nd 2005.

Future trips – the Onesquethaw trip will need a new leader.

Meeting adjourned. ♪

Editor's Column

Hi everyone. I'm now filling in for Carl Carmony as Editor of the Underground Movement. Feel free to contact me with any corrections or suggestions you may have.

Carl recently moved to Indiana, and due to time constraints he is unable to continue his fine work editing the UM. Last month Carl wrote a nice editorial detailing our many grotto achievements over the past year, and naming those who have contributed to the success of this publication. However, he left one name off the list – his own. Carl, thanks for all the time you've put into producing the UM, and best wishes for the future.

And to everybody – PLEASE take a moment of your time to send in some photos or put together a trip report or article for publication. The UM depends on it!

Cave safely,

Jansen Cardy - NSS 50665 

Orientation to Cave Rescue

October 23-24, 2004

Pittsford, Vermont

By Jansen Cardy

The Northeastern Region of the National Cave Rescue Commission recently sponsored a weekend OCR training seminar in Vermont. The purpose of these seminars is to introduce basic cave rescue techniques to both cavers and rescue agency personnel.



Ken Nichols gives the lesson on Patient and Personnel Safety

This OCR was put together by John Evans (NCRC regional coordinator), Steve Hazelton (VT cave rescue coordinator), and Greg Moore (registration). There were a total of 15 volunteer instructors, and 28 students. It was interesting to note that one in every four students was a CCG member, as well as two of the instructors.

The venue was the Vermont Police Academy, an excellent location for the training with easy access to classrooms, dormitory accommodation, dining facilities, and outdoor areas. Saturday consisted of a quick succession of classroom lessons including rescue management, logistics, and patient assessment. This was followed by outdoor practice in patient packaging and litter handling, using the police dog obstacle course. The evening concluded with a hearty lasagna dinner.

Sunday morning began with a briefing on the upcoming mock rescue. It was reported that a caver "Kevin" had injured his leg in nearby Pittsford Ice Cave. His friend "Ed" initially stayed

with him, but was later found with head injuries in another part of the cave. A group of students were selected at random to be the first responders, and they made their way to the cave to set up operations and locate the patients. The remaining students arrived in stages as reinforcements.

Although the weekend seminar curriculum does not include rope



Steve Hazelton demonstrates the Oregon Spine Splint to Julia Jackson, Frank White and others, using Ken as a patient

rescue techniques, it was found that the injured patient could not be extracted any other way. Coincidentally, a specialist vertical rigging team arrived in the area to assist. A haul system and belay were set up, and with help from the evacuation team the patient "Ed" was extracted from the cave. The initial patient "Kevin" ended up being miraculously healed due to time constraints.

The mock rescue lasted about 6 hours, and almost every student was able to spend time in-cave. Both the Pittsford Ice Cave and the Police Academy proved to be ideal locations for this type of training. The dedication shown by both instructors and students continues to make these weekend seminars a worthwhile experience. The next OCR in the Northeastern Region is scheduled for summer 2005 in the Schoharie, New York area. I strongly encourage anyone who caves to attend.



The patient reaches the top. From left - John Danyew, Ed Lucas (packaged in a SKED stretcher), Kara-Lynn Pivarski, and Marc Muth



Clarksville Press Release

Cave Conservancy Buys New York State's Most Popular "Wild" Cave

(Clarksville, NY - October 7, 2004)

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC) has purchased 11 acres of land containing Clarksville Cave. This purchase is in keeping with the NCC's mission to protect caves, underground wilderness, and to provide a safe and environmentally educational experience to the many who visit the cave.

Clarksville cave was owned by the Alberts-McNab family for over 50 years, who faithfully maintained the long tradition of keeping the cave open to the public since it was discovered in the early 1800's. Thousands now visit Clarksville Cave each year. With liability concerns growing the owners approached the NCC about buying the cave. Bob Addis, President of the NCC, stated that "the NCC will continue to allow visitation, while emphasizing caving safety and protection of these unique underground resources and still have an enjoyable trip". To help with this, the NCC will post trained volunteers on the property during peak visitation hours.

In conjunction with the purchase, the Albany County Legislature will vote in October to turn over the Gregory Entrance and about 0.6 acres surrounding it to the NCC. The Gregory Entrance is one of three entrances to Clarksville Cave. The County acquired the land 25 years ago and it had been used by the Onesquethaw Fire Department to fill fire trucks. With the advent of a piped water system in Clarksville in recent years, this fluctuating source of water had been abandoned. "The NCC is a natural protector of this cave entrance" says Addis. "Also by controlling several acres in the watershed, the NCC can improve the water quality of the stream flowing through Clarksville Cave and coming out the Gregory Entrance".

The NCC is a nonprofit organization which owns and manages several cave preserves in the state of New York and has been operating since 1978. "We are in the process of obtaining nonprofit corporate status in Vermont and are also considering other caves throughout the Northeast as the need for cave conservation increases", says Addis.

To introduce itself to the locals, the NCC hosted Clarksville Cave Community Day on October 16, 2004. Volunteers were there to answer questions and serve light refreshments.

Members of the caving community are needed to provide ongoing stewardship for Clarksville. This includes greeting visitors on behalf of the NCC during peak times (like weekends), and encouraging people to cave safely. Get involved! – Ed.

NCC website – www.necaveconservancy.org 

Caver's Alphabet – A to M



Air Rappel – rapidly descending a pit without the luxury of being connected to a rope

Booty Scoop Lust – an incurable psychological condition that motivates push cavers to dig harder and/or squeeze into tighter passages

Cardboard Caver – a caver that turns around at the first sign of wet passage so that his/her layers don't delaminate

Dope Walker – a person who is barely capable of using their own rope walker system

Ear Dipper – a low wet passage which requires a caver to turn their head sideways and immerse one ear in the water

Flailing – poor climbing technique usually made worse by inexperience, fatigue or desperation

Gobbler – a waist mounted carbide generator, so-named because of the rate that it eats up carbide

Hydrothermia – that bone-chilling feeling you get from being constantly immersed in cave water

Instant Cave – explosives, also referred to as rock solvent or just "bang"

Janglies – assorted vertical equipment, often carefully arranged in a tangled mess

Krab/Crab – karabiner/carabiner – not quite as polite in mixed company as the term "biner"

Little Fizzy Rocks – Calcium Carbide, smells funny and tastes even funnier

Modification – changes made to northeastern cave passages so humans can fit through, see Instant Cave 



A tubular formation embedded in the flowstone wall of McFails Cave, between Coeyman's Junction and Ack's Shack. See article in last month's UM.

Photo by Jansen Cardy

Confessions of a Gear Junkie

The new Princeton Tec EOS headlamp

By Jansen Cardy

I recently went shopping for a light to go on my new mountain bike. Not that I'm serious about riding in the dark, but it's nice to have a light for those occasional situations. After trying a number of low to mid-priced lights apparently designed for biking, I ended up rejecting them in favor of yet another headlamp. Coincidentally, this one also works well for caving as both a back-up and spotting light – so that's why I'm mentioning it.

Princeton Tec has just released the EOS, which combines the compact size of 3-AAA batteries with a blinding Luxeon 1-watt side-emitting LED. Waterproof to 1 meter, it weighs 3.7oz with batteries and is only slightly bigger than popular 3-LED Aurora model. The EOS is current-regulated, with 3 powers settings and a flashing mode. The switch, battery compartment, and tilting mechanism are all improvements on the Aurora, and so is the more solid construction. The only real downside is its appetite for batteries.



Actually, the battery life is not too bad. High power will last you 2 hours at full brightness, with a further 4.5 at reduced brightness. Medium will give you 9.5 hours, plus another 3. And low gives 44 hours, with an extra 16 before it goes dark. Although not focusable, the beam gives a nice 2-foot spot and 7-foot flood coverage at 10 feet. On high power, I consider it to have a usable spotting range of 50-100 feet. Medium power is pretty good too, and low power is fine for easy walking or reading.

My main caving light is a Petzl 8-LED Duo. There's a small hole in the front of my helmet above the Duo, so I detached the headband from the EOS and mounted it on with a nut and bolt. Then I went caving. On medium power, the EOS was fine to use in walking passage, although the light given off is not as broad and evenly-spread as the 8-LED Duo. My only real complaint is that the intense beam causes "fog-blindness" in stream passages. But for a small, reliable, waterproof backup that's also great for spotting – it does a nice job.



So as I started by saying, I actually got this for the bike. I



swapped the headband for a couple of Velcro strips, and easily fixed the EOS to my front reflector. I rode on unlit residential streets at night to try it out, and found the light perfectly usable on either medium or

high power. The flashing mode could be good to alert traffic in well lit areas, or while daytime riding in bad weather. I also found it useful to bike with a second light, like a helmet-mounted Aurora, to cover the small blind spot just in front of the bike. This allows for sideways glances without steering the bike into a ditch.

So the only question is – will I end up using my EOS more for biking or caving?

The EOS is available at Eastern Mountain Sports (where I got mine) for \$38.95 – www.ems.com

