



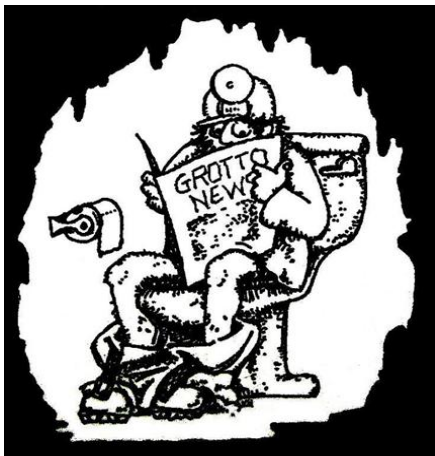
Central Connecticut Grotto

Underground Movement April 2005



Simeon Warner rappels past a pile of trash into
Baugh's Cave in the Cobleskill region, NY.
Photo by Chris Beauchamp

The Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) invites you to join us in the exploration, study and conservation 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.

Editor: Jansen Cardy
c/o Central Connecticut Grotto
P.O. Box 57
Winchester Center, CT 06094
860-209-7789
editor@ctcavers.org

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

CCG Officers

Chair:	Bob Simmons	860-738-1176
	chair@ctcavers.org	
Vice Chair: (Program and Activities)	Steve Adams	860-643-1502
	vicechair@ctcavers.org	
Treasurer:	Norm Berg	860-621-2080
	treasurer@ctcavers.org	
Secretary:	Laura Ritter	203-241-8153
	secretary@ctcavers.org	
Communications: (Web-monkey)	Jeff MacDonald	860-826-7487
	communications@ctcavers.org	
Membership:	Cheryl Kenez	860-489-2621
	membership@ctcavers.org	
Safety:	Doug Truitt	860-298-8862
	safety@ctcavers.org	
Conservation:	Garth Varian	203-453-5639
	conservation@ctcavers.org	
Vertical:	Tom Oakes	203-888-7355
	vertical@ctcavers.org	

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 turn left through the light, take an immediate 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

2813 Cave Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35810-4431

Voice: 256-852-1300
Fax: 256-851-9241
E-Mail: nss@caves.org



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**.

APRIL 2005

- April 9** – Vertical Practice at Cathole Mountain with Tom Oakes
(Rain date April 10)
- April 19** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm
(Spring NRO planning)
- April 23** – Vertical Practice at Cathole Mountain with Tom Oakes
(Rain date April 24)
- April 28 to May 2** – OFMC III to WV with Bob Simmons
(Coincides with Spring VAR in Lewisburg)
- April 30 to May 1 – NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue training
(Hosted in Clinton, NJ by the NJ Initial Response Team)

MAY 2005

- May 3** – CCG Planning Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm
(All members are welcome, pizza will be supplied)
- May 14** – Trip to check out the NRO site with Bob Simmons
- May 17** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm
(Spring NRO planning)
- May 20 to 22** – Spring NRO hosted by CCG - Port Jervis NY area

JUNE 2005

- June 11** – Trip to Benson's Cave in NY with Tom Oakes
(Vertical gear required)
- June 21** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm
- June 25** – Trip to Knox Cave in NY with Bob Simmons
- June 25 to July 2 – NCRC rescue training in Huntsville, AL

JULY 2005

- July 4 to 8 – NSS Convention in Huntsville, AL
- July 19** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm

AUGUST 2005

- August 16** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm



CCG Vertical Practice at the Stone Age Rock Gym

By Steve Adams – 3/15/05

(Editor's note - no minutes were taken at the March meeting.)

On March 15th, the CCG held its monthly meeting at the Stone Age Rock Gym in Manchester. After the normal business meeting it was off to the ropes. An expert rock climber climbed the walls and ceiling like Spiderman and rigged the ropes.

Three ropes were set up for climbing. More could be set up if needed. Attendees were Bob Simmons, Norm Berg, Tom Oakes, Cheryl Kenez, Bob Jacobs, Kevin Zagorski (the new kid on the block - I mean on rope), Garth Varian, Jeff MacDonald, Peggy Gilbert and Steve Adams.

Rope climbers were Kevin, Garth and Steve. Trainers were Bob Jacobs, Jeff, and Tom.

This was the first time the CCG used the Stone Age Rock Climbing Gym for vertical practice. The Stone Age Rock Gym staff was very accommodating and helped make this event a success. ♪



New CCG member Kevin Zagorski is shown the ropes by Bob Jacobs.
Photo by Steve Adams

EDITOR'S COLUMN

For now, the UM will remain as it is - a monthly publication.

This is, of course, entirely conditional on the continuing flow of trip reports, photos, and other submissions from CCG Members.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this UM, and to previous issues. Fantastic effort. And if you haven't sent in anything recently, try it – we'd love to hear from you.

Safe caving,



Jansen Cardy - NSS 50665 

Baugh's Cave Revisited (aka Extreme Dumpster Diving)

By Chris Beauchamp – Trip date 11/27/04

We were up at the cabin again over Thanksgiving weekend, and as usual Joe Armstrong was spewing enthusiastically about a couple of dozen different hot digs, promising leads, and hypothesized connections.

One such rant went something like "Have you been to Baugh's?"

Me - "Uh, no. What's Baugh's about?"

Joe - "Myloie wrote about it in his thesis. He thought that it connected with Barytes, and he was right about Wolferts connecting with Barytes. Plus we dye traced it and it connects. Myloie mapped it to a depth of 167' and that's the same depth (CCG member) Brian Pease radio located the depth of the Quadrant Room to be." (The Quadrant Room is a large junction room in Barytes.)

Me - "So what's the deal? How does the cave (Baugh's) end, good lead, dig-able?"

Joe - "Well... it's full of trash."

Me - "Huh?"

Joe - "Jay Siemion and I went to look at it a while back, and Jay decided he didn't want to dig through a pile of trash."

Jay's reluctance to engage in a little refuse recon should have been my first signal to shy away, but we decided to go take a look – and it was indeed a filthy trash pit. There were mounds of debris, rotting lumber, twisted steel, plastic toys and household garbage, interrupted by little glimpses of karst features and the beaconing darkness below. As we had a large group, we decided to break up into teams and work on this and a few of the other hot digs.


The hot digs were actually anything but hot (i.e. digging while lying in water). I was not feeling particularly inclined to don my wetsuit, having just discovered a gaping hole in the crotch area. So I opted to be the first volunteer for trash picking. After we assessed Madame Trash-heap, we determined that in order to have a reference point to start digging our way in we should look at the map of the cave in the Myloie thesis. We made a quick trip over to Secret Caverns to look at their copy of the map.

With a starting reference point, we headed back. Joining me in the fun were Simeon Warner and Leslie. We quickly rigged a rope and I dropped down a crack behind the largest part of the heap. About 25 feet down I landed on a false garbage floor. Looking up I could see that a bunch of the big stuff was being held up precariously by pieces of plywood. These had gotten caught horizontally when thrown in the pit, and were now buckling under the tremendous weight above them.

I was a little spooked by the unstable nature of the stuff, but after rummaging in the debris at my feet I was able to knock some bags of garbage further down the pit. The bags sounded like they contained glass. This left me with a tight hole through some 2-by-4 lumber. I dropped the rope down the hole, and then yelled up to the others that I was dropping to a lower level. I could hear the shards of glass and other trash tearing at my suit as I rappelled.

At the bottom it was even worse – the amount of crap was just overwhelming. I could see that my progress was completely blocked ahead. Even if it weren't, I would have had to crawl directly underneath the buckling wood that was supporting the tons of trash on the surface. Behind me there was no indication of any passage, just more junk. But at least there wasn't anything poised to rain death down on me, so I started pulling out stuff – big sections of chain-link fence, baby dolls, wood, metal, plastic and Styrofoam.

Eventually I had a tiny passage sloping down and away from me. I crawled in, clawing through the refuse, over a tire, then an engine block, pushing the rope in front of me. I knew from the map that there were several more drops, and I didn't want to find them the hard way if the trash gave way beneath me. Finally I came to a small pit, and at the bottom there was a fissure running back under where I had just come from. There was far less trash at this point. I mean it was still a disgusting cesspool, but one with rock walls, floors and ceiling – something not apparent on the upper levels.

After the drop it's actually a really cool cave, with nice fissures and a couple of mellow climb downs, all punctuated with the occasional tire or cooler. At the end, there is a lead that eventually goes to Barytes and perhaps a few other exciting places. It's a low crawl that's half full of water, and entirely full of rotten filth. When I rejoined Simeon and Leslie on the surface after they finished taking it in, we all shared the same conclusion. It was sad. This was by far the most destroyed cave we had ever seen. It was beyond hope. And we were never coming back... 

Return to Baugh's Cave

By Chris Beauchamp – Trip date 2/6/05

When we rejoined the others after our first visit, Joe Armstrong was excited that we had broken into the cave and optimistic that the cave could be restored. I basically laughed, and said to him "You're insane! You'll need cranes, big commercial dump trucks, winches, rigging gear, and a thousand cavers on a hundred trips... and I don't want to be one of them!"

It must have been post-caving bliss from the awesome trip the day before, or maybe something I ate, but we decided to do another trip into Baugh's. Gary hadn't seen it yet, and we couldn't think of any other good ideas. So Joe Armstrong, Gary Burns and I headed over to Baugh's. It was unusually warm, and the combination of the sun and Gary's exhaust leak made me proclaim "I'm felling stupid, I think I'm gonna put my wetsuit back on and dig all the crap out of the water".

Joe had made several trips since my initial visit, and made claims of progress in the cleanup effort. I was skeptical until I stepped off the cable ladder and looked down what had been a tight belly slither over debris. Now it was walking passage, sloping down to the pit. The other trips had pushed all the crap down the pit into a space big enough to work, then loaded what they could into "ass-wheat" bags and piled the rest. That basically makes the debris manageable for its eventual removal. I was amazed by the progress on the lower levels.

Gary and I pushed right to the end armed with a rake, hoe and some ass-wheat bags. Take some tight, wet, nasty cave passage, add a few weeks worth of household trash, then mix thoroughly, you've got a good idea of what the "end" was like. I laid in the slop and grabbed handfuls of debris, and pushed it behind me to where Gary could hook it with the hoe, before stuffing it into the ass-wheat bags. On the plus side, digging through trash yields quick results.

After an hour I had made about fifteen feet of progress. I was at a tire that seemed slightly larger than the passage it was in, and was hoping that it was the trash plug – so when removed, it would be clear sailing into more cave. It took a little doing, but I managed to pull it out with Gary's help. As I had hoped, the tire had acted as a plug blocking most of the garbage. Mylroie's map had ended at the water, so I was excited by what might lay ahead.

Baugh's had been dye traced into the Barytes system, which has been yielding so much new cave in the last few years. Well, very quickly I got to a spot where the cave split into two passages with a column in the center – neither of the passages being quite large enough to continue. I could force myself in far enough to see that

they came right back together, and that the cave continued down a few small drops where I couldn't fit.

So Gary decided to make a go at it, his slighter frame and lack of wetsuit allowing him to negotiate the tight spots with ease. He dropped down a small under-cut pit with a pool of water on top, which he likened to a bird feeder, and followed the cave to a tight fissure before turning back. At that point we worked our way up to the upper pit with some of our bagged trash, and met up with Joe and a couple of late arrivals.

We discussed our dig options and the prospect of thoroughly cleansing the cave as we made our way out. I think we can expect a major cleanup effort come springtime, led by Joe Armstrong. This will be a huge undertaking requiring some serious manpower and equipment, but will be well worth it. I hope the CCG is able to lend its full support. ♡



Outside Baugh's Cave – Photo by Chris Beauchamp

Proposal for Survey and Mapping of the Roxbury Mine

By Bob Jacobs

Footnote by Bob: "Recently I went on a bat counting trip into Roxbury Mine (Roxbury, CT), and got to talk with the Director of the Land Trust and a representative from the USDA who is involved with funding Land Trust activities. I got them interested in the idea of us surveying and producing a good quality map of the mine. After talking with Bob Simmons and Tom Oakes, I sent this conditional proposal to the Land Trust."

Need

The Roxbury Mine is a significant historic and geologic feature in Connecticut for which no accurate, detailed map exists.

Expected Benefits

- Increase public awareness and appreciation of the mine.
 - Example: Renditions of the map can be used in brochures and on kiosks.
- Enable spatial documentation of locations of significant historic features.
 - Examples: Rails, structural supports, mining artifacts.
- Facilitate and improve management of natural resources (most notably bats) within the mine.
 - Examples: Will allow for detailed graphic recording of winter bat usage.
 - Would allow scientists to calculate area and volume of various parts of the mine to better illustrate, model and predict variables such as water and air temperatures and flow.

Approach

Members of the Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) of the National Speleological Society (NSS), in cooperation with the Roxbury Land Trust and the CTDEP Wildlife Division, will conduct a "Grade 5" survey and map of the mine (per NSS standards, see example maps). A Grade 5 survey is conducted with a surveyor's compass, inclinometer and tape. A "skeleton" diagram of the mine/cave is developed by establishing set stations throughout the mine that typically range from 10 to 100 feet apart.

The exact compass bearing (azimuth in degrees), inclination (how many degrees higher or lower one station is from another) and distance (according to the tape) is recorded between stations. While these measurements are being taken, detailed sketches are made of the passage and significant features between each station. At each station, and at 10-foot intervals between each

station, a cross-section of the passage will be sketched to scale, and water depth (if present) and the distance to the floor and each wall will be measured.

Typically in a Grade 5 survey, the distance to the ceiling is estimated if out of reach (see discussion under "Budget" for actual measurement of ceiling heights). Additionally, digital photographs will be taken of all cave passages and significant features to photo document the survey and augment survey sketches. Data from the survey will be entered into computer software that creates a precise skeleton map of the mine. Sketches of passages are used to draw in passage detail and features to scale using the skeleton map as a base (using CAD or similar graphics software). Computer programs are also available that "morph" scanned sketches to fit the measured data.

The Map

A detailed diagrammatic, poster-size digital map (at least 2 x 2 feet) will be produced in both "plan" and "profile" views (looking at the mine from the top and side views – see example maps). Because the mine has overlapping levels, separate plan views will be produced for each level as well as a composite view with all levels combined. Standard NSS symbols for cave surveying will be used. A copious number of cross-section views will also be illustrated to scale on the map. All significant features (such as man-made objects) will be indicated to scale on the map. The map will illustrate the depth and flow direction of any water in the mine. Cave survey maps are typically produced in black-and-white for economy of production and ease of copying, but this one could be color-coded for attractiveness and enhanced readability (examples: water features could be in blue, man-made features some other distinct color).

Budget

It is the consensus of the CCG that grotto members will donate their services and use their own equipment to conduct the survey. No equipment needs to be provided by the Land Trust.

However, a few budgetary items might/should be considered:

- The Land Trust should budget some monies (**\$400?**) to cover printing costs of display maps to be used on their own kiosks, posters and pamphlets.
 - An example of a poster that could be displayed on a kiosk is to have the map as a centerpiece, surrounded by digital photos of the mine (referenced to locations on the map) and various text providing historical background and other items of interest.
- If the Land Trust or other interested parties (such as DEP Wildlife) wish to have more accurate measurements of ceiling height (and any other measured distances), acquisition of a shock and water

resistant, hand-held laser rangefinder is recommended (the CCG does not have access to one).

- A standard model is the Leica DISTO Classic 5a, which is accurate to 1.5mm (0.06 inch). The unit starts at **\$499**, depending on vendor. Specifications can be seen at this and other websites:
<http://onsitertools.com/index2.shtml?classic5a.shtml>
- A last consideration might be the acquisition of some 7/16" static climbing rope to be semi-permanently rigged at each of the four in-mine pitches (heights approx. 25ft, 25ft, 60ft and 60ft) for the duration of the project. Adding 20ft to each rope for rigging, this would require about 250 of rope at approximately 0.70 cents a foot (total of about **\$175**).
 - **Grotto members are willing to use their own ropes for this project, but the high density of iron particles and fixtures in the mine causes greater than normal rope wear.**

Duration

Surveying will be conducted between May and September, 2005 and will probably take a total of four to five trips to finish, depending on the number of qualified volunteers available each day. The final map, as well as all data and photos will be delivered to the Land Trust by January 1, 2006.

Editor's note: The "example maps" mentioned in the text are standard NSS cave maps.



CAVE RESCUE TRAINING



The New Jersey Initial Response Team (NJIRT) and the Eastern Region of the NCRC are running a weekend Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) on April 30 and May 1, 2005 in Clifton, New Jersey.

Weekend OCRs are an excellent opportunity for cavers to learn skills that could help in a rescue situation, or on any caving trip.

The cost is \$50 for the weekend, not including accommodation. Further details and an application form can be found on the NJIRT website at <http://www.njirt.org/links.asp>



Spring NRO 2005



Will be Hosted by Our Grotto on May 20-22

In The Port Jervis NY Area (Close to Mystery Cave)

ONLY A MONTH TO GO!

Volunteer Stewards Needed for Clarksville

Volunteer stewards are needed at Clarksville Cave this spring, summer and fall to introduce visitors to the new NCC ownership of the cave. As discussed at NCC, NRO and grotto meetings during the past year we're looking for cavers from all over the Northeast to help out by spending a day or a weekend at Clarksville welcoming visitors, making sure they're properly equipped, answering questions and offering suggestions. We'll also be glad to accept their donations to the NCC, too!

Two or more people should be on hand on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from about 9 am to 5 pm to greet visitors as they arrive at the parking lot (the new NCC lot will probably not be ready until later this year). We hope that each grotto or group of cavers can schedule several weekends this year so that we can meet as many Clarksville visitors as possible.

Flyers will be in the new kiosk just above the upper parking lot. They were written with the idea that visitors would read this material as they arrived at the preserve. If we wait until they get out of the cave to give it to them that would defeat much of the purpose. Of course if we give them the flyers as they're walking along the trail, or starting into Wards, the flyers will just get wadded into their pockets and forgotten. But if stewards catch them at the parking lot, introduce themselves and hand out the flyers then, they will be much more effective. In case the flyers are gone when you arrive, the Guidelines section from them is reproduced below.

Since this is the first year, we expect to go a little easy on the guidelines. For example, although 3 sources of light are preferred, a big group going to the Lake Room with 2 lights each would probably be okay. Small flashlights duct-taped to bike helmets are fine. But we must prohibit solo cavers, groups over 15, spray paint, glass bottles, etc. Confrontations are unlikely -- just about all the visitors we've met have been friendly -- but in case you run into a problem use your own good judgment. In the worst case, go call the sheriff.

TO SIGN UP AS A CLARKSVILLE STEWARD:

Only one signup is needed for each group. Go to <http://chum2.dyndns.org/calendar/> and sign in with "ncc" for user name and "signup" for password. You will then be able to place your name or your grotto name on the calendar and also see who else has signed up and for which days.

Thanks a lot, and have fun at Clarksville this year!

Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter

Clarksville Cave co-managers

Directions to Clarksville

Clarksville Cave is located behind the former June's Diner near the west end of the village of Clarksville, on NY 443 about 10 miles west of Albany.

Clarksville Flyer

A digital copy of the Clarksville Flyer can be found at: http://chum2.dyndns.org/calendar/files/clarksville_guidelines.pdf
The guideline section of the flyer can be found below:

Guidelines

Please look at the example of safe cave caving equipment sketched on the reverse side of this sheet. If visitors are not adequately equipped, such as having no extra lights, they may be asked to not enter the cave for safety reasons.

Camping, fires, wood cutting, and parties (without written permission) are not permitted.

This is a carry-it-in, carry-it-out property. Please leave nothing on the property.

Alcohol, firearms, coolers, glass bottles, spray paint and other objects which might cause safety problems or damage the cave are not permitted in the cave.

Groups larger than 15 are asked not to enter the cave.

There is no parking permitted at the Clarksville Cave Preserve between 11 pm and 7 am without written permission.

[Institutional users such as summer camps, church groups, fee-based led trips, school groups, youth outing groups and similar organizations will be required to schedule trips and follow additional regulations similar to those in place for other NCC-managed properties. If your group possibly fits this category please contact the NCC special use coordinators (Amy and Aaron Cox, amycaves2@aol.com) who will assist you in facilitating your visit.]

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy
PO Box 254
Schoharie, NY 12157-0254
<http://www.necaveconservancy.org>



ELECTION 2005

VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1ST
MAIL IN YOUR NSS BALLOT NOW!

MAKE YOUR VOTES COUNT!!!

New NSS Officers

On Saturday March 5, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas, the NSS Board of Directors elected two new officers.

After three terms of distinguished service to the society as NSS President, Scott Fee decided to step down as President. The Directors are pleased to announce that Bill Tozer of Indiana was elected NSS President and will begin his term at this coming NSS Convention.

The other new officer is the Secretary-Treasurer. Paul Stevens notified the Board that due to health reasons he felt a replacement for him should be found. Previous to being the Treasurer, Paul was a Director, Chairman of the Directorate, Executive Vice-President for four years and President of the NSS for five years. During Paul's nine years as the NSS Secretary-Treasurer he transformed the office from an impossible one person job to a well organized finance department. It should come as no surprise that Paul had also groomed his replacement. The Directors are pleased to announce that Ted Kayes of Richmond, Virginia was elected the new Secretary-Treasurer of the NSS.

The Directors wish to thank Scott, Paul, Bill, and Ted for their excellent service to the Society.

Gary Moss
Chairman of the Directorate
Board of Governors, NSS

CAPTION CONTEST WINNER



"In my Mandala I sing bat calls to You..."

Thanks to **Merrill Gonzales** for submitting this caption. Check out some interesting information on the Buddhist "Mandala" at <http://www.jyh.dk/indengl.htm>

(It's easy to spot the connection with Ray's pretty umbrella...)

Bat Monitors Needed in Northeastern States During Spring 2005



The following request for bat tracking assistance was made on 20 January 2005 by Carl Herzog of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

"Our agency is currently preparing for two radio tracking projects that will take place from mid-April to early May 2005. We will be attaching transmitters to Indiana bats, an endangered species, as they leave their winter caves and we'll attempt to find them in their summer habitat out on the landscape. Both projects will be happening simultaneously and we are looking for volunteers (with or without equipment) to help with radio tracking.

"One cave is located in the Kingston, NY area. Previous experience suggests that some of these bats will fly to Orange and Dutchess Counties in NY. Others might fly anywhere within 300 miles, but most likely they will be found in lower NY, Western CT, Northern NJ, or Eastern PA. The bats do not limit themselves to wilderness, but are often found in farm country or even suburban areas.

"The second cave site is in western NY near Watertown. We have no idea where these bats will go but, again, we do not expect them to travel more than 300 miles and probably less than 50 miles. This radius includes southern Ontario and Quebec - bats know nothing about national borders.

"Transmitters will be operating between 150 and 151 MHz. If you think of a single Morse "dit" repeated every second or so, you'll have a good idea of what they sound like. Generally speaking, you'll need a SSB/CW capable receiver to hear anything. For folks who live in the right areas and are willing to devote a bit of time to this project, we might be able to provide receivers and/or antennas."

UPDATE from Carl Herzog, dated March 25, 2005:

"Everything is proceeding according to plan. We don't expect the bats to begin to emerge from their winter quarters until approximately 15 April and we'll wait until they do so to attach the transmitters. The exact date will depend on the weather, more specifically temperature. The first warm pulse in the middle of April is usually what triggers things into action. Once that happens things proceed at a fast pace.

"The first phase will involve 40 animals in the Watertown, NY area. All will be released in a single night. We will have a radio-equipped airplane circling the release site that night to give us an idea which direction they take. Our experience is that they orient themselves pretty quickly and seem to know where they are headed. It's not really feasible to follow them very far from the air, though. We

really have little idea where these animals will go. We'll use 6 different frequencies to help us sort out some individual behavior.

"A few days later we will do the same thing for 20 more animals in the Kingston, NY area. Last year, bats from this site were located within about 30 miles of the release site, although we never found about half of them. Other folks who have tracked this species have reported distances traveled upwards of 200 miles.

"In both cases we will utilize a combination of air and ground-based searches in the succeeding days, hopefully guided by the information gained on the release night regarding the bats' initial direction of travel. The typical pattern is that they get where they are going in a day or two and then females begin to group together into maternity colonies of 50-200 individuals. They roost in trees and move from one tree to another every couple of days or so.

"Lots of ground follow-up is required (fun work for volunteers, that) as we keep track of the bats' activity. Among other things, we are interested in describing the kinds of trees they use, what types of places these trees are found in, etc. We expect the transmitter batteries to last about 3 weeks. The bats are just too small to carry any more than that."

Additional updates on this project will be posted at this "Homing In" website

<http://members.aol.com/joemoell/owl.html#indybat>

You can also e-mail Carl Herzog directly at cjherzog@gw.dec.state.ny.us



CCG Vice-Chair to Resign

Steve Adams, CCG member since 1999 and current Vice-Chair, has announced his intention to resign.

Many of his family members live in Florida, and he has decided to move there to be closer to them. Steve's employer approved his transfer from Hartford to their office in Tampa. He will be leaving Connecticut on May 7th.

Steve says "It has been a great pleasure being part of the CCG. I will miss everyone. Hopefully I can join you at NSS Conventions or OFMC trips."

He encourages anyone willing to take over the position of Vice-Chair to contact Bob Simmons.

His enthusiasm, planning skills, and encouragement of new cavers will be sorely missed. And luckily the Appalachian Trail doesn't reach Florida, so he probably won't get in trouble again by digging where he shouldn't... 