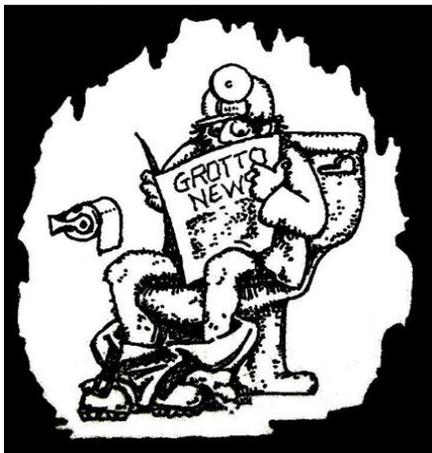


Underground Movement  
May 2005



Helictites in Onyx Cave, southern Arizona.  
*Photo by Jansen Cardy*

## 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.

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

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 can be found at [www.caves.org/pub/nssnews/style.html](http://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**.

### 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 Norm's house from 6pm  
(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 12 – NCC Meeting
- June 21** – CCG Monthly Meeting at Norm's house from 6pm
- 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 16** – Roxbury Mine mapping trip with Bob Jacobs
- July 30 – Valcour Island (Lake Champlain) cave swim-through trip  
(tentative)
- July 19** – CCG Monthly Meeting at Norm's house from 6pm

### AUGUST 2005

- August 6 OR 13** – OFMC trip to West Virginia with Bob Simmons
- August 16** – CCG Monthly Meeting at Norm's house from 6pm
- August 20** – Roxbury Mine mapping trip with Bob Jacobs
- August 27** – Trip to McFails Cave in NY

### SEPTMEBER 2005

- September 3 to 5 – Old Timer's Reunion in West Virginia
- September 20** – CCG Monthly Meeting at HRP Associates 7pm



## Minutes of the CCG Monthly Meeting

### April 2005

4/19/05

Secretary's Report – (Laura Ritter) – absent

Treasurer's Report – (Norm Berg) – no changes.

Membership – (Cheryl Kenez) – sent renewal notices with a link to the membership form for members with dues due.

Communication – (Web Monkey) – web working fine. Norm asked him to work on the membership form because some people had difficulty printing it.

Vertical – (Tom Oakes) – there will be a practice April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Cathole. Rain date will be April 24<sup>th</sup>. Said Chris Nicola would do the vertical at the NRO on Sunday.

Vice Chair – (Steve Adams) – this is his last meeting, as he is moving to Florida.

Conservation – (Garth Varian) – nothing to report.

Safety – (Doug Truitt) – absent.

Upcoming Events:

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the vertical practice at Cathole.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, planning meeting at HRP

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Grotto meeting at Norm Berg's house.

April 28 – May 1<sup>st</sup> –OFMC III (Old Fat Man Caving) with the promise of OFMC IV during the summer of 2005.

New Business:

Bob Jacobs talked about Roxbury Mine. He thinks they are waiting for us and we may be mapping it in the future. He thinks 4 to 5 trips over the summer should do it.

We talked about the volunteer stewards needed at Clarksville this summer. Amy and Aaron Cox might be able to train some stewards at the meeting.

At the next meeting we will get materials ready for the NRO. Uncle Steve is doing the meals.

The web monkey will put up the NRO info and Norm will set up the link.

Upcoming Trips:

During Easter weekend, Chris Beauchamp and 17 others worked at Howe Caverns. They were paid to clean up loose material near the Winding Way to hopefully prevent future flooding. They were treated to dinner afterwards. All the material was taken out of the cave in the elevator.

Meeting adjourned. ♡

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Say goodbye to winter, and get ready to cave again!

Spring NRO is just around the corner, heralding the start of the northeastern caving season. Get involved – offer to lead a trip, or pester someone else until they agree to lead one.

And remember, get your stories and pictures together and send them to me. Keep the UM alive!

Safe caving,



Jansen Cardy - NSS 50665 



**Spring NRO 2005**  
**MAY 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**



The Spring 2005 NRO will be hosted by the Central Connecticut Grotto on May 20, 21 & 22 at Oakland Valley Campground, site of the Spring 1998, 1999 and Fall 2000 NROs near Mystery (aka Surprise) Cave and Port Jervis, NY.

### DIRECTIONS

From Upstate New York:

I-87 South to Route 209 at Kingston, Follow Route 209 south to Cuddebackville, turn right onto Oakland Valley Road to camp ground on left.

From Connecticut and points east:

I-84 West to Route 17 North, exit at Wurtsboro onto Route 209, go south to Cuddebackville, right onto Oakland Valley road to campground.

From NYC/NJ:

Route 17 North to Wurtsboro, then same as CT, above.

From PA and points west:

I-84 to Port Jervis, then Route 209 to Cuddebackville, left onto Oakland Valley Road.

## SCHEDULE

### 1. FRIDAY MAY 20, 2005

- Registration open from 7PM to 11:30 PM
- No organized activities at campground
- Sign up sheets available for Saturday and Sunday Cave trips
- Possible night trip to pre-rig Mystery/Surprise Cave

### 2. SATURDAY MAY 21, 2005

- Registration open from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Breakfast 7:30 to 8:30 AM
- Cave trips start at 8:30 AM (see signup sheets)
- Dinner 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- NRO Meeting 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- NRO Gear Auction 8:30 PM to DONE

### 3. SUNDAY MAY 22, 2005

- Breakfast 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
- Cave trips start at 9:00 AM
- Vertical training seminar at 9:30 AM
- Break camp by 2:00 PM

## FOOD

The NRO is COOKING the Saturday breakfast, the Saturday dinner and the Sunday breakfast. The menus are:

Saturday breakfast: eggs, home fries, sausage and bacon, coffee, tea, milk, orange juice for \$5.00.

Sunday breakfast: pancakes, syrup, butter, sausage bacon, coffee, tea, milk for \$4.00.

Saturday dinner is hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken patties on hard rolls w/ typical fixin's and salads (potato, macaroni) chips, soda, milk, coffee, tea for \$7.00.

## CAVING

Likely cave trips to Rhodes, Surprise, Pompey's, Salamander, Graham Mountain and other area caves, and Sam's Point (Ellenville Ice Caves) hikes. We still need trip leaders, particularly organizations

with permits to Mystery/Surprise Cave! Final trips will be coordinated using signup sheets on site.

## GUIDEBOOK

Ernst Kastning has graciously allowed us to reprint the classic "Caverns of the Shawangunk" for use as our guidebook for this event. There will be an updated supplement provided concerning access and other issues with each of the caves in the area.

## CAMPING

Camping fees will be \$5.00 per person per night and payable directly to the campground. Please stop at the campground office on your way in as you arrive, you will be given a pass for your car to be on the premises for the duration of the event. After hours arrivals should pick up an information packet at the office on the way in and pay their fees when the office opens in the morning. We will not be the only guests at the campground, so please make your entry (and exits) quietly.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

We will have a vertical training area set up for practice and climbing system demonstrations and a vertical training seminar on Sunday morning.

Other area recreational attractions include: Shooting, Rock Climbing, Hang Gliding, Hot Air Ballooning, Canoeing & Tubing, Swimming, Horseback Riding and Skydiving.

## OFFICIAL

Access to many of the caves in this area is by permit only. Please do not visit any caves in the area this weekend unless you are on a scheduled trip. Please read the regulations and permit conditions for each cave and abide by them. Also please be sure to get with your group at the appointed time for the trips going into Mystery/Surprise Cave. Due to the bottleneck at the entrance, we are trying to do our best to stagger the trips a half hour apart so there isn't too much waiting at the entrance.



## Mine Rescue in Phoenix, Arizona

By Ray Keeler

*Editor's note – True story! Ray sent me this email, and I just had to share it.*

We had a mine rescue on Tuesday night (April 26). Two college students were out 4-wheeling, and decided to explore a horizontal mine adit they found. They used their cell phones for light.

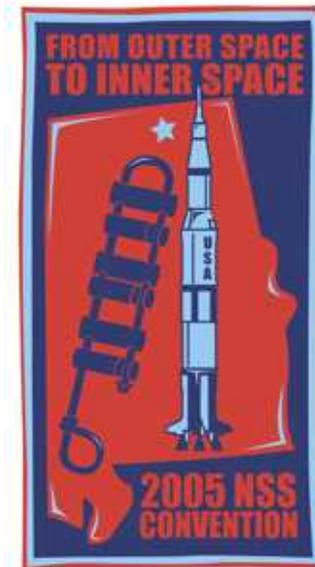
A hundred feet into the mine, one of them stepped into darkness and fell into a vertical winze 30 feet deep. Amazingly, he was in good shape other than one injured ankle. Two ATVers happened by with a 45 foot poly rope, and attempted to help.

They pulled him up to the lip (in the dark). He then slipped and fell back to the bottom. They pulled him up a second time, and he fell to the bottom again. The ATVers decided it was time to go for help.

Three falls, and still he was not seriously hurt.

*The moral of the story – don't count a cellphone as one of your sources of light!* 

## 2005 NSS CONVENTION



The 2005 NSS Convention will be held July 4 - 8 in Huntsville Alabama, home of the National Speleological Society headquarters.

Located in the foothills of the Appalachians just north of the Tennessee River, with 4000 Caves within 70 miles and 200 foot pits within the city limits, the North Alabama area holds a myriad of outdoor opportunities.

Hiking, Mountain Biking, Canoeing, Fishing, Boating, and the Trent Jones Golf

Trail can all be found within the city limits. Huntsville, also known as the 'Rocket City' has a long history of contributions to the United States Space Program.

Huntsville is home to the Marshall Space Flight Center, and the United States Space & Rocket Center, with its U.S. Space Camp for astronauts 9 and older. The conveniences of a metro area of 300,000 mixed with large open rural areas nearby await you deep in the heart of TAG.

# Clarksville Cave

## Beyond the Twinkle Room

Albany Co, New York

Suunto & Tape Survey

Bob Jacobs & Peggy Gilbert

Central Connecticut Grotto

Feb 12, 2005

Total Survey Length = 116 ft

