

# Darn Dirty

## VSA Snewsletter

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### DARN DIRTY ENTERING NEW ERA

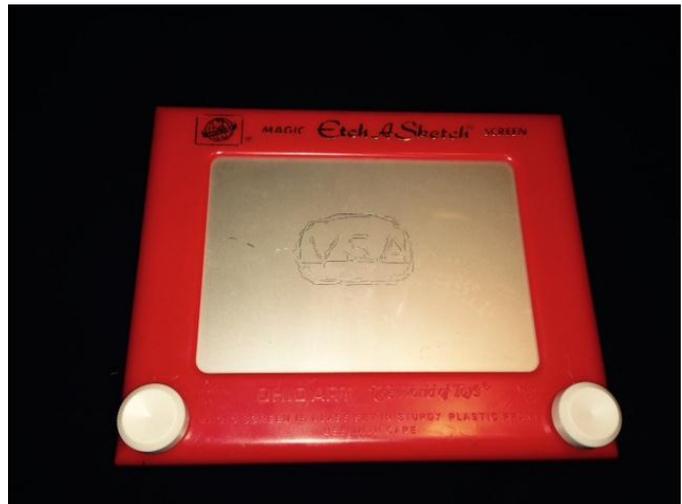
This issue marks a dramatic improvement in the publication and distribution of **Darn Dirty**, the VSA Snewsletter, as the VSA aims to enter the 20<sup>th</sup> century with cutting edge technology and at the same time be more ecologically friendly. The result – a digital snewsletter!

The advantages to going digital are many. No longer will you have to rush home from work to see if the latest issue has arrived – now you can even read this while driving home from work. And it will be even easier to enlarge those blurry cave maps that in the past ended up right under the postmark, leading you to think there was a secret passage off the side someplace.

The change from paper to pixels does not come cheaply, however. All of those 1s and 0s that make up each and every item on the screen cost money, and the color pixels are especially expensive to create and distribute.

At its last meeting, the VSA agreed to raise membership dues to \$50 per regular member and \$200 per family to offset the cost. Members are asked to send the new fee (small, unmarked bills – no checks!) to the VSA Treasurer. Debit and credit cards are acceptable, but only if you include all PIN information with the card. You are welcome to request a receipt if you want.

Future plans for **Darn Dirty** include making this snewsletter available in other formats for those with disabilities. A braille copy will be printed for those who are as blind as a bat, and for those of you who are hearing-impaired, volunteers are being sought to read this to you really really loud. For those of you who live under rocks and don't have computers, smart phones, tablets, telephones, telegraphs, or other ability to connect to the outside world, we have created an on-line form (see our Faceplant page) for requesting either the old papyrus-reed scroll or engraved on two stone tablets (shipping extra).



*The new VSA App as shown on a modern Tablet computer.  
This app can be downloaded from the VSA web page.*

## Morris Cave to Become Show Cave

The town of Mount Tabor has announced that it has partnered with Disney Resorts to convert Morris Cave to what they predict will be one of Vermont's leading tourist attractions. The new name of the cave will be ***Uncle Ronnie's Wild Dark Caverns***.

A people-mover similar to roller-coaster cars will be installed from the entrance to the Big Room, enabling visitors to enjoy passages such as the Cobble Crawl, Wet Pinch, and Tight Pinch without actually having to get muddy. They have promised "some surprises", but refused to give specifics. Rumors include the lights being turned out in the middle of the Cobble Crawl, and a simulated passage collapse during the return trip.

Other initial plans inside the cave include:

- A combination Cafeteria/Gift Shop in the Breakfast Nook;
- A tram to the Lake;
- Venice-style gondola boats cruising on the lake;
- A roller coaster type thrill ride down the Corkscrew

Planners have promised that the cave will have formations rivaling "that will make that cave in New Mexico that they keep showing in National Geographic look like a gopher hole".

The waterfall will be modified to give it an actual vertical drop, estimated to be at least six feet high.

Outside the cave, the current transfer station will be turned into a luxury hotel, although planners have stated that they plan to keep the current "rural" look. The quarry pond will become a water feature, with cliff diving from the tops of the quarry,

A public hearing on the proposed Cave Park will be held later this summer or fall, after the snow melts.

## Human Transmission of White-Nose Syndrome Confirmed

The spelunking community was shaken recently with the news that white-nose syndrome has been confirmed in a human. This is the first known case known outside of bats.

The spelunker, an unidentified man from Rutland County VT, was first spotted when he emerged from his house well before mid-May, when spelunkers normally start crawling out from their dens, and was found sitting in a snowbank on the side of the road.

The man was taken to the home of Joell Filleweillling, a local bat expert from the Vermont Department of Parties and Wild Life who confirmed that the humongus fungus is amongus.

The man later admitted to having been in close contact with bats in a cave he called The Garden of Eden, supposedly a cave full of spectacular formations that goes all the way through a mountain someplace in southern Vermont, although none of the local spelunkers have ever heard of this cave before.

The spelunker is being closely monitored to determine if he will survive the rest of the winter, and to see if the fungus will clear up with warmer weather.



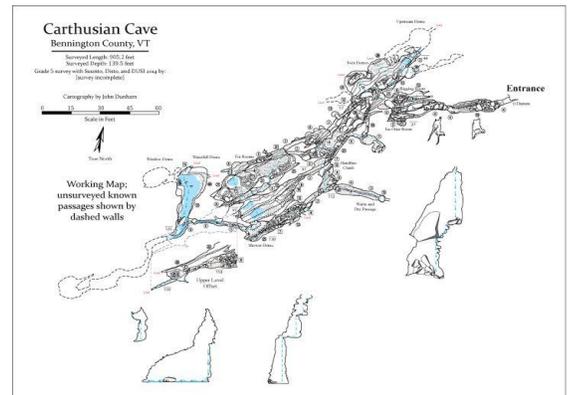
## New Edition of Caves of Vermont to be Published

Peter Quack has announced that the next edition of ***Caves of Vermont*** will contain all new maps printed with a 3-D printer. “This will allow cavers to really appreciate and understand the complexity of Vermont’s caves” he boasted.

For those not familiar with this newest technology, a 3-D printer uses extruded plastic to create realistic images of an item that can then be viewed from any direction. This technology is already creating tremendous interest in many fields, including research (studying how bats fly), to manufacturing (need a replacement bulb for that old Justrite headlamp? Now you can make one yourself!), to medicine (patients can now create their own hip and knee replacement parts, and do-it-yourself artificial heart valves are on the horizon).

Quack points out that the 3-D model will let you get a real feel of just how tight, twisty, and vertical a cave really is. This should let newbies go prepared for passages like the pinches in Morris. “In fact,” Quack was quick to point out, “with a 3-D printer you can even enlarge any passage to life-sized to see if you really will fit. Or even better, enlarge a whole cave in your basement for when the bats are hibernating.”

Quack does admit that there are some downsides to 3-D printing, however. He estimates that the finished book will be approximately the size and weight of a desk and cost upward of \$5000 apiece. “It’ll be well worth it, though,” he said. “I plan to take the profit and buy a sailboat in Barbados.”



*Map printed on 2-D printer – hard to visualize the passages and layers, as pointed out recently in the NSS Snews*



*Same map as above, printed on a 3-D Printer. The overlying schist and underlying insoluble marble layers are clearly visible, as are the maze of passages*

## Cave Rescue Ordeal Continues

The Muddy Hole cave rescue, now officially the longest lasting rescue ever in the US, continues after almost a month with no end in sight.

The rescue began on March 2 when State Police notified area cavers that assistance was needed in this small cave in central Vermont. The original call-out was for someone lost in a cave, although the details were quite sketchy.

On arrival, the first cavers were told by the local officials that a local resident and self-proclaimed weather forecaster, Chuck Wood, had entered the cave exactly a month earlier after announcing that spring was due to arrive shortly. But after weekly “storms of the century” and a month of temperatures well below zero, the local officials wanted to “just have a little chat” with Wood.



*Wood, when last seen in early February*

Muddy Hole Cave is a tight and straight-forward cave, so the initial Search Task Force had little trouble finding the suspect. But then the situation took an unexpected twist.

As near as can be determined, Wood was not lost, just refusing to come out. He pointed out that, in fact, that despite everyone’s claims that it had snowed every day since Labor Day, the weather on that one particular day the previous month had been sunny for a short while and he actually saw his shadow, which meant six more weeks of winter. “And besides,” he stated, “six more weeks of winter doesn’t mean spring on the seventh week anyway.

Hell, had they asked, I would have told them that winter is going to last until July! You guys are crazy to go back out there in this weather! It’s over 50 degrees warmer in here than out there, and you don’t even have to chuck wood into a wood stove!”

This information was reported to the Command Post. The cavers also informed the Incident Commander that they would be willing to stay in the cave and continue negotiations with Wood “for as long as it takes”.

The Incident Commander, although hoping for a resolution to the stand-off so he could move to Florida, didn’t seem concerned with the length of negotiations and was quick to commend the local cavers for their eager response to this long incident. “The cavers told us that it would take a long time and that they would need a lot of resources and supplies,” he stated. “The cavers all show up with coolers full of supplies and can’t wait to get into the cave. Their only request was a steady supply of pizzas – apparently the shape makes it easy to move through the tight spaces.”

Unfortunately, communications have been a problem. The cavers have been making several requests for “more gear!”

Attempts to clarify this request for “gear” resulted in one message that sounded something like “long nail” but when a



*The Incident Commander reports on rescue progress*

large metal spike was sent in it was immediately thrown back out. And the area emergency agencies had no idea what was meant by a “magic” hat. The Incident Commander also said he was initially stymied by their request for a large-screen television and cable TV access and access to ESPN, NESN, Nickelodeon, the Disney Channel, HBO, and The Weather Channel. “I mean, I can see if they wanted a television camera wired to the outside so that we could see what is going on inside the cave, but we are still trying to understand why they want to see what is happening outside the cave. It was obviously important, though, since every caver that arrived agreed it was a priority, so we got them one.”

To date, 38 Vermont cavers and three Dominos Pizza delivery boys have gone into the cave and none have yet to report back out, although at one point, one of the cavers briefly exited the cave, stated “Next year, I move to TAG!” grabbed two cardboard boxes of unknown supplies from his car, and then disappeared back into the cave.

With local resources running thin, a plea for help was made to Boston Grotto cavers, but they were unable to respond as none of them could find their cars.

## New TV Reality Show Based on Vermont Caves

Move over, Duck Dynasty! Out of the way, Real Housewives! The ***Really Wild Caves of Vermont*** is coming soon to a channel near you.

The theme of the show, to be aired on the Miscovery Channel, will be showing what life in a Vermont cave is really like. Hidden camera have already been strategically placed in several Vermont caves (including several unknown to cavers) to capture what really goes on when the lights are off.

And to date, early footage has been better than expected. The camera have not only caught the usual animal suspects (bats, bears, porkies, and pumas), they have also managed to capture rare footage of a Vermont Hodag. And while not admitting it, the show’s producers are not denying that they have actual footage of Bigfoot and Bat Boy.

The producers are also excited about footage from an unnamed cave in southern Vermont where a polar bear is seen chasing two penguins. That episode is also being shown on The National Geography Channel as evidence of the polar shift.

As for humans, the producers said that what they have captured so far is much better than expected. “If those guys only knew they were on camera!” stated one.



*Click Play to view a real Vermont Hodag in an actual cave environment. Preview courtesy of the Miscovery Channel.*

## NEW VERMONT CAVES – ARE THEY REALLY CAVES?

The inventory of Vermont caves may be revised again – but this time, in a downward direction, when it was uncovered that all of the caves that have been discovered by the Berkshire Area Diggers And Sometimes Spelunkers (BADASS) this past winter were in fact in snowpiles and snowbanks, not actually in the ground.

BADASS representatives have denied that they intentionally tried to deceive anyone. However, one BADASS was heard exclaiming “If Bob Carroll can dig a tunnel through a pile of rocks and call it a cave, why can’t we dig a tunnel through a pile of snow and call it a cave too?”

Another BADASS pointed out (off the record) that now that the scientists have proven that the North Pole has relocated itself to just north of Boston,

we expect that these snow tunnels are likely to be a lot more permanent than most Vermont caves, which tend to collapse every time you move a rock.

John Jacob Schmidt, one of the BADASS spelunkers, stated that their real goals were to break current cave records. He has already found a snowpile at Killington Ski Area that has potential to contain the deepest cave in the Northeast. He also admitted that the rumors of trying to connect to the caves in the Boston Glacier is true. “Those ‘Boston Is Getting A Shitload of Snow’ (BIGASS) guys are really going at it down there,” Schmidt exclaimed. “They already have 94 miles of surveyed passage, and have been using cars they find buried in the glacier to scoop several hundred more miles. If we can connect to them, somewhere around Jaffrey NH we



*Schmidt in a recently “discovered” Vermont cave, estimated to be almost a mile in length*



*BADASS members looking for new cave passage in an undisclosed location in southern Vermont*

predict, this has the potential for a cave longer than Mammoth Cave! We’ve already got about 50 miles, just in Vermont. Now we’re talking multi-state here. And if we can connect up with those illegal aliens trying to dig into Vermont from Canada, we can even

go international!” Schmidt did admit that the BIGASS surveyors are using the controversial Carroll method of measuring passage, which claims that if you can get under something on a rainy day and not get wet you are in a cave that is at least 100 feet long.

Schmidt also pointed out that their new caves were much more friendly for beginners and anyone fatter than a 2x4, which was well received by the Friendly Area Team of Amateur Stocky Spelunkers (FATASS), who prefer riding bicycles through the caves instead of walking. “Yeah, it may look lazy, but at least we’re not driving cars through our caves like those Boston BIGASSes!” proclaimed one FATASS.



*FATASSes in an unnamed cave in Vermont*



*BADASS diggers work on the deepest cave in the Northeast, in the Killington Ski Area Parking Lot*

The *VSA Snewsletter* is published by the Vermont Spelunker's Association (VSA) of the National Spelunker's Society.

The VSA Snewsletter is published whenever the editor is motivated enough to write something. The chances of there ever being a future edition are pretty slim.

Articles for the VSA Snewsletter should be sent to someone who gives a damn.

All original material is copyright by the Vermont Spelunker's Association or by the author. The information contained in the articles is as real as the reader wishes to believe. If you found yourself believing any of this, please contact the local authorities to have yourself removed from the gene pool.

The opinions expressed in the articles contained in the VSA Snewsletter are pure bullshit.

The people mentioned in the articles are purely fictitious, despite some of them adamantly denying this. If you find yourself talking to any of these people, you are showing signs of mental instability that could get you locked up for a long time.

Dues for the VSA are now \$50 per year, payable in small denomination, unmarked, non-sequential bills only.

#### **NEXT VSA MEETING**

Meetings of the VSA are held on April 1 of each year, in any location that is foolish enough to leave the door unlocked. If nobody else shows up, start the meeting anyway.

#### **GROTTO OFFICERS**

President: Ira Splunker

Vice President: Kerr Splunker

Secretary: Ima Splunker

Treasurer: Ivanna DeMonie

Cave Rescue Coordinator: Stu Kindekave

Snewsletter Editor: Kenny Wright

Assistant to the Editor: Jesse Kahn

**CHECK OUT THE VSA WEBSITE: [www.Happy.April.Fools.Day!](http://www.Happy.April.Fools.Day!)**

### **PREVIOUS VSA MEETING MINUTES**

The last meeting was called to order by VSA President Ira Splunker at 9am. Several members were in attendance, although none appeared to be fully awake.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted as published, even though everybody admitted that they never bothered to read them.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ivanna DeMonie, VSA treasurer, reported that we have some money somewhere.

#### **Old Business:**

Nothing important was discussed at great length.

#### **New Business:**

Several informational sheets (written in foreign languages) were circulated.

Somebody (the secretary was napping and didn't see who) displayed what he thought was a long-lost map of a cave that he had found in a pile of caving-related articles in his house, but it turned out to be was a coffee-stained place mat from the Seward's Diner.

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.

The post-meeting activity was a practice session on horizontal caving under the tables. A future post-meeting activity will be vertical caving practice at the hospital using the stairway.