

# Central Connecticut Grotto

January 2004

The Underground Movement



Photo Ray Keeler

Tom Oakes in Black Cave, Arizona

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.

CCG Editor: Ray Keeler 2 N. Main Street P302  
Beacon Falls, CT. 06403  
203-720- [rkeeler@pcslink.com](mailto:rkeeler@pcslink.com)

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

Chair: [Bob Simmons](mailto:chair@ctcavers.org) 860-738-1176  
[chair@ctcavers.org](mailto:chair@ctcavers.org)  
Vice Chair: [Steve Adams](mailto:vicechair@ctcavers.org) 860-558-9248  
(program and activities) [vicechair@ctcavers.org](mailto:vicechair@ctcavers.org)  
Treasurer: [Norm Berg](mailto:treasurer@ctcavers.org) 860-621-2080  
[treasurer@ctcavers.org](mailto:treasurer@ctcavers.org)  
Secretary: [Cheryl J. Kenez](mailto:secretary@ctcavers.org) 860-489-2621  
[secretary@ctcavers.org](mailto:secretary@ctcavers.org)  
Communications Chair: Jeff MacDonald 860-826-7487  
(web monkey)  
[communications@ctcavers.org](mailto:communications@ctcavers.org)  
Membership Chair: [Norm Berg](mailto:membership@ctcavers.org) 860-621-2080  
Laura Ritter 203-241-8153  
[membership@ctcavers.org](mailto:membership@ctcavers.org)  
Safety: [Doug Truitt](mailto:safety@ctcavers.org) 860-298-8862  
[safety@ctcavers.org](mailto:safety@ctcavers.org)  
Conservation: Carl Camoney 860-995-4022  
[conservation@ctcavers.org](mailto:conservation@ctcavers.org)  
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. (at 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 up. 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 (labelled 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

There's a whole bunch to list here. See next page.

#### January

17 Northeast Cave Conservancy Meeting (Day)

17 Howe Cavems Cleanup (Evening)

CCG has reserved the Gage Cave Field house for the weekend.

20 CCG Meeting

This meeting will feature the film "Water's Journey - Hidden Rivers of Florida" with guest speaker and CCG member, Brian Pease. Brian will provide commentary and show radio location devices he developed and used in this film. See exploration of spring tunnels for the Florida State Dept. of Environmental Protection so that water quality monitoring wells can be drilled, and see divers along with Brian and other support personnel mapping underground drinking water tunnels which lie under streets and neighborhoods.

The film was shown nationwide on PBS in fall 2003, and received the "Best of Show" award at the 2003 NSS Convention Video Salon.

To learn more, and see clips from the film, check out these websites:

<http://www.floridasprings.org/expedition/>

<http://www.karstproductions.com/watersjourney.html>

24 Onesquethaw Bob Jacobs, [uconnjka@indspring.com](mailto:uconnjka@indspring.com)  
860-742-5621

#### February

17 CCG Meeting



The CCG MEETING, CHRISTMAS PARTY and ELECTIONS is Tuesday, January 20th at 7PM at HRP.

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**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

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

SATM T: Saturday After The Meeting Trip L: Leader

1/14: CCG Planning meeting.

1/17 Annual Howes Cave Clean up: CCG has the Gage Cave Field house reserved.

1/17 NCC Exec. Comm. Mtg @ Howes Cave

1/20 Grotto Meeting

1/24 Sat after the meeting trip (SATM T) L: Bob Simmons Loc TBA

2/17 Grotto Meeting

2/21 SATM T L: Ray Keeler, Tory Cave

3/16 Grotto Meeting

3/20 SATM T L: TBA Loc TBA

3/27 NCC Board Meeting Cave House in quarry

3/27 KW Award for Art Palmer at Howes Cave

4/15 to 4/17 Cave Conservancies Forum Lewisburg WV

4/20 Grotto Meeting

4/24 SATM T L: Tom Oakes: Vertical Practice at Cathole Mountain. Rain date Sunday April 23rd. and

5/8 Vertical Practice: Tom Oakes at Cathole Mountain. Rain date Sunday May 9th.

5/14 to 5/16 Spring NRO Arlington VT hosted by VCA

5/18 Grotto Meeting

5/22 SATM T L: Bob Simmons Loc Mystery Cave, NY

6/15 Grotto Meeting

6/19 SATM T TBA

**MINUTES FROM DECEMBER MEETING (12/13/2003):**

Well, gosh, it was the Christmas party and not a real meeting structure so here are some of the notes taken: (Ray)

There were 28 present at the meeting.

At the NCC meeting they signed a \$50K agreement to buy Clarkesville Cave

Pete Johnson - Memorial Fund

Doug Truitt is planning a trip on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004

January 6, 2004 is a meeting for the New Jersey Cave Conservancy

Jansen wants to do a vertical practice in January, TBA

12/27-30/2003 Ray Keeler will be doing a Black Cave, AZ

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**GROTTO ELECTIONS**

In a wonderful effort of grotto unity the following were elected to leadership positions at the Grotto Christmas party.

Chair: Bob Simmons

Vice Chair: Steve Adams

Secretary: Cheryl Kenez

Treasurer: Norm Berg

Communications: Jeff MacDonald

Membership: Laura Ritter, Norm Berg

Conservation: Carl Carmoney

Safety: Doug Truitt

Vertical: Tom Oakes

Underground Movement Editor: Ray Keeler

Black Cave, Arizona  
December 30, 2003  
Ray Keeler, NSS 23245

Participants: Tom Oakes, Dave Oakes, Chris Oakes, Ben Oakes,  
John Oakes, John Rea, Stephanie Keeler, Ray Keeler

Tom was spending the holidays in Arizona with family and since I needed to check the gate status it was a good excuse for a caving trip.

Black Cave is a hydrothermal event in central Arizona. We have almost 1 mile mapped in this very strange formation. There are no loose rocks or dirt. There are none of the standard dripstone formations. Yet the entire 3.5 hour trip was spent under calcite ceilings.

The gate had been negotiated by January, 2003 since the last NSS trip in November 2004. The gate had been hurriedly created in negotiation with the land owner to avoid the land owner (a mining company) from blasting the entrance shut. The catalyst for this was the death of a person in April 1995 and discovered in December 1996. I elected to pull the gate with the help of our team and will work on recreating a new gate. No one had been in the cave (at least on the register) since February 2003. I will be working on re-establishing the gate in the coming months.

We spent the day in white side of Black Cave. This side has a calcite crust over a black substrate that overlies the gray base limestone. The entrance series has several tight squeezes that allow access to the Junction Room from which the three branches diverge. We went over to the Big Room and the Dalmatian Passage as this was basically a tourist trip and took some photos and gawked. In some places the black substrate is growing and exfoliating the calcite crust. In some places where the black is growing (not in the part of the cave where we were) it looks like black raspberries.

Photos: Ray Keeler Right: Dalmatian Passage  
Below: Big Room





Black Nodules, Dalmatian Passage

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(It's cold... so go underground where it's warmer)

## 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).

## Speleodigest Entries in Connecticut

Ray Keeler

I did some homework last weekend looking at Speleodigests and came up with the following. The "don't know" means either I don't have that year or the year was not published.

I guess this means we have plenty to do (grin).

Connecticut entries:

- 1965 and prior - don't know
- 1966-1968 - 0
- 1969 - 1 King Phillips/Queen Ann's (aka Talcott Mountain Caves)
- 1970-1975 - 0
- 1976 - don't know
- 1977-1982 - 0
- 1983-1984 - don't know
- 1985-1988 - 0
- 1989 - don't know
- 1990 - Unnamed #7 - Donald Ash on 37 talus caves near Norwich
- 1991 - 0
- 1992 - don't know
- 1993-1996 - 0
- 1997 - 1 Glawackus - Doug Knight
- 1998-2000 - 0

