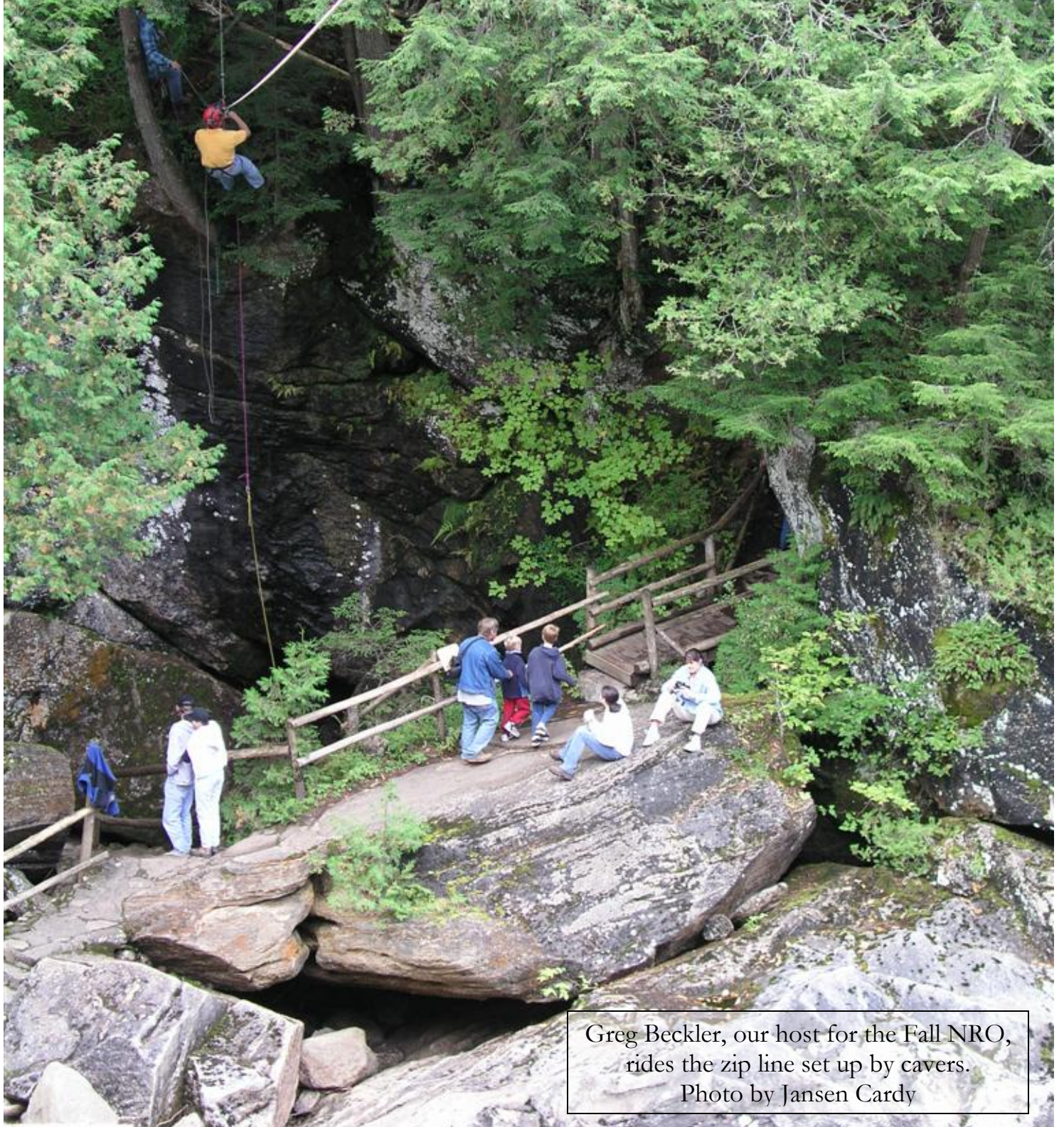




# Central Connecticut Grotto

## Underground Movement

October 2004



Greg Beckler, our host for the Fall NRO, rides the zip line set up by cavers.  
Photo by Jansen Cardy



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 (CCG) of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Reprint permission is granted to the NSS and to other grottos, with Author or Editor permission.

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All cavers are welcomed and encouraged to submit articles, photographs, and other items for publication in the CCG. Your contribution would be very much appreciated.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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	treasurer@ctcavers.org	
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<b>Vertical Chair:</b>	Tom Oakes	203-888-7355
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#### CCG Meetings:

Meetings are the 3rd 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. (rt. 372) Plainville, CT. For info call 860-793-6899 x134. Non Members welcome.

#### Meeting Directions to HRP Associates:

From Waterbury direction on I-84 traveling 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.  
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 traveling West (or Rte 72 traveling 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).

Turn left at the lights, then immediately turns 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.caves.org/pub/nssnews/style.html>

#### NEWSLETTER CORRECTIONS and RELATED ITEMS:

The cover photo for the September issue of Underground Movement was shot by Jansen Cardy.

#### 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.

#### OCTOBER 2004

Oct. 16 - 10 am to 4 pm - The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to protecting caves and keeping them open to the public, has purchased the Wards entrance to Clarksville Cave and 11 surrounding acres. You are invited to meet your new neighbors at the sand quarry parking lot near June's

Restaurant. Officers and members of the NCC will be on hand with maps and photos of the cave, to discuss its effect on the community and to hear your concerns and suggestions. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome, so come by on Saturday, Oct 16, 2004.

### **NOVEMBER 2004**

November 25th – 28th – Thanksgiving in Schoharie.

### **JANUARY 2005**

January 4th – Planning meeting at HRP (our regular meeting place) at 7:00 PM.

### **MAY 2005**

May 3rd – Planning meeting at HRP (our regular meeting place) at 7:00 PM.

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### **Future trips:**

(Not all trips have trip leaders or meeting times as of yet.)

### **OCTOBER 2004**

October 23rd – Onesquethaw and End of Gulch Cave (Trip Leader Needed – Carl Carmoney can't make it.)

### **NOVEMBER 2004**

November 11th – 14th - Possible OFMC III(or IV) (Old Fat Man Caving #3) to West Virginia with Bob Simmons.  
November 20th – Gages  
November 25th – 28th – Thanksgiving in Schoharie.

### **DECEMBER 2004**

December 11th – Clarksville

### **JANUARY 2005**

January 4th – Planning meeting at HRP (our regular meeting place) at 7:00 PM.

### **MAY 2005**

May 3rd – Planning meeting at HRP (our regular meeting place) at 7:00 PM.

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## **September 2004 Meeting's Minutes**

09/21/04

Secretary's Report – (Cheryl Kenez) minutes from last meeting accepted.

Treasurer's Report – (Norm Berg) we have \$1285.50. Expenses were \$40.00 to Steve Janesky for use of the grill and our NCC dues. We received \$20.00 from Ken Nichols (VCA) for the use of the grill.

Vice Chair – (Steve Adams) we will have the planning meeting on October 5<sup>th</sup> at HRP.

Communications – (Web Monkey) no communications.

Membership – (Laura Ritter) one new member.

Safety – (Doug Truitt) absent.

Conservation – (Carl Carmoney) lots of news. The NCC raised all the money for the purchase of Clarksville Cave, however the Thook entrance is on private land. The Gregory entrance is being transferred from the County to the NCC. There is also a closing on Ella Armstrong Cave.

Trips- The NRO at Natural Stone Bridge and Caves was attended by over 70 people. Thom Engles lead a trip there and other trips went out to Eagle Cave on Crane Mountain.

Chris Nicola reported that the Gregory entrance was sumped. There were four people on Norm's Knox Cave trip.

Future trips-

October 10<sup>th</sup> – Bat's Den with Bob Simmons.

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Community Day at Clarksville.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Onesquethaw and End of Gulch Caves. Also the NCRC OCR in Vermont.

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Gages with trips to the dry and wet sections. Ken Nichols is trip leader.

November 14<sup>th</sup> – the NCC executive meeting.

Thanksgiving – the turkey fry at Schoharie Cabin.

December 5<sup>th</sup> – NCC Board Meeting at Howe's.

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Clarksville with Steve Adams.


Chris Nicola announced he will be going the Carpenters Suego area over Columbus weekend. Clarksville on October 17<sup>th</sup>. He said that Bridge Day will be Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> in West Virginia. Chris is also going to Brazil and Mexico for future caving trips.

Norm Berg announced that we paid Steve Janesky \$20.00 for each use of the grill- for maintenance. He also corresponded with the Boy Scout leader.

The CCG has been asked to host the Spring NRO. Bob Simmons will send out a e-mail to each member.

We also agreed to pay \$75.00 in dues to Chris Nicola's Ukraine Caving Club so we could get onto his presentation ASAP.

After the business meeting Chris Nicola gave a slide show about his discovery and research of the Priest's Grotto in the Ukraine.

Meeting adjourned 

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## **Letter from the Editor:**

It's been a whole year since Ray Keeler created our first newsletter and it's been quite a ride. During this last year we've had NCRC training in Clarksville, mapped/remapped several caves, cleaned up Howe Caverns, were given access to Lechuguilla Cave in Carlsbad, New Mexico, had a New Zealand caving trip, and various safe local caving excursions. Chief among these activities is that everyone has returned to us safely.

More recently, the purchase of Clarksville has kept the region focused and moving toward more responsibility in cave stewardship.

It's amazing how time flies when we're not paying attention to every minute detail. What's also amazing is how fast we forget the events of the last year – it's a good thing that the grotto has a newsletter to record the grotto's activities. To quote Ray Keeler, "If the trip isn't recorded, the trip never happened."

That quote is key in keeping *Underground Movement* published each and every month by the content that the members of the grotto provide. Each article is an interesting, independent view point of whatever event that they are reporting and imparts a little bit of knowledge to the readers.

I'd like to take this opportunity to specifically thank the members of the grotto that contributed to *Underground Movement*.

- ❖ Ray Keeler – Newsletter founder, Leadership, Human Impact Survey in Lechuguilla, numerous articles and caving activities
- ❖ Jansen Cardy – Cover photos, Leadership, general photography and a great majority of the articles
- ❖ Chreyl Kenez – Monthly meeting minutes
- ❖ Steve Adams, Chris "Cramp" Beauchamp, Norm Berg, Gary Burns, Elaine Connery, Peter Febbriello, Bob Jacobs, Steve Janesky, Chris Nicola, Tom Oakes, Chuck Porter, Laura Ritter, Bob Simmons, Ralph S. Welsh, and, last but not least, Scott R. Welsh – photography and articles.

I think that's everyone. If I left your name off, please, don't take it personally.

I'm sure we're all looking forward to another year of *Underground Movement* and more caving adventures, scientific research and stewardship. I hope the same people who provided photography and articles, as well as new writers, are able to submit content for the newsletter over the course of the coming year.

-Ed

## Fall NRO – September 17-19, 2004

By Jansen Cardy

Natural Stone Bridge and Caves in Pottersville, New York – what a great NRO site! As I arrived on Friday evening, so did the rain. Slogging through a wet night, the weather finally cleared about breakfast time on Saturday. After a hearty Steve Janesky-CCG breakfast, the caving began.



Noisy Cave - Cavers climb the Noisy Cave waterfall under multi-colored lighting.

My first trip was to nearby Browns Cave, led by Chuck Porter. Although officially limited to 10 participants, somehow the head count expanded to 26. Browns is small but not too tight, and its multiple entrances made it easy to do with

a larger group. I entered the ladder drop, checked out the main room,

and made my way up the stream passage and out the waterfall entrance. Refreshing!



Under the Stone Bridge - Thom Engel and a horde of followers enter the river under the Stone Bridge at Pottersville, NY.

After getting back, I had just enough time to throw on a wetsuit and join Thom Engel's off-trail tour of the local caves. About 30 of us jumped the barriers and sloshed around in the water, much to the amusement of tourists

walking the trails. The owner of the premises, Greg Beckler, joined us on our tour. He overheard a couple of us talking about how good his tourist attraction would be for vertical practice, and immediately said "Go for it!"

Ed Lucas and I thought we'd take this one step further. We set up a zip-line starting from the top of Stone Bridge, and ending above Noisy Cave across the river. At 200 feet long and 50 feet above the water, it took a couple of hours to prepare and set up – with time for just a few test runs before stopping for dinner. We were treated to an excellent CCG meal, this time with a Mexican flavor. The evening rounded out with the NCC auction, followed by some videos including "A Brief History of American Caving".

Sunday morning brought another fine breakfast, courtesy of VCA. Ken Nichols and Steve Janesky chaired the NRO meeting, which was well-attended. We then got back to business, modifying our zip-line to make it faster. After more test runs, about a dozen people rode it including the owner Greg, and his daughter who turned 16 that day. Greg had a blast, and wants to look at developing some adventure tourism there in the future. Mark and Diane Lucas also braved the zip-line experience.



A young caver making friends with a water snake in Browns Cave.

After everything was packed up, Bob Simmons, Cheryl Kenez, Biner and I took a short hike to check out some sinkholes on the property, before heading out. As far as cave attractions go, Stone Bridge may not be the biggest – but it was still a fine place to hold an NRO!

Website <http://www.stonebridgeandcaves.com/index.html> 



# McFail's Cave, October 8th 2004

By Steve Janesky  
 Photos by Jansen Cardy (of course!)



Steve Janesky can rappel Hall's Hole with his eyes closed

Ken Nichols led this trip with Steve Janesky, Dave Pick, Mike Chu, Jansen Cardy, and Julia Jackson. We Entered the cave at 7:30 pm on that Friday evening. We rigged the 75 foot pit with Kens 200 foot rope, doubling it, tying the center to a beaner on the back cleat, and tying both drop end onto the top bar with beaners. Lots of picture were taken this trip, as it was not supposed to be a push trip, rather it was a sight seeing one.

We all dropped the pit within 20 minutes, and with the aid of cable ladders, dropped the two following pits with ease and speed. We headed up towards Ack's Shack once reaching the junction. We found many

pieces of glass, pottery, pots and pans, signs, cow bones and teeth along the way. We got to Ack's crawl, where Steve and Dave crawled half way through and back. We then headed back to the junction, stopping after



Julia Jackson, poster girl for helping to preserve this cave (Sign reads: "Help Preserve This Cave")

the ear dips to eat a quick meal. We headed down stream from the junction, and found our way up to Dream land. Dream land is a series of old passages above the main trunk of the cave that has been long detached, giving formations freedom to form undisturbed by the water torrents below.

A rimstone dam, up in Dreamland, with the makings of future cave pearls



It was quite difficult to get around in dreamland, cause you had to crawl with your butt down, avoiding any breakage of the thousands of helictical formations on the ceilings. One area (35' x 12') was

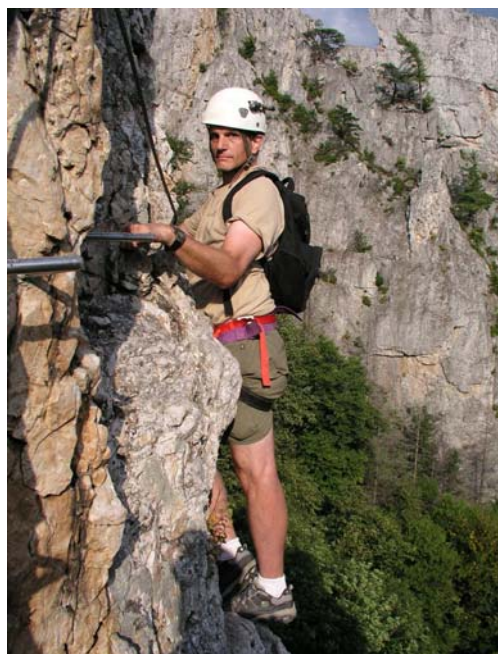
unreal, formations everywhere. Then another room had a large moon milky river, with cave pearls and a small violet pool which was the source of the river. Many bat bone crawls where also present. There were many thousands of bats this trip as I'm sure they were ready to start their winter hibernation.

We exited the cave at about 3:30 am Saturday morning, after climbing Halls Hole with a slight 5 GPS waterfalls.

Steve-----

## Via Ferrata!

By Jansen Cardy



Steve Adams confidently traverses along a small ledge hundreds of feet above the ground

During this year's Old Timers Reunion, a few of us decided to stay above ground one day and try something a little different. We drove about an hour to the Nelson Rocks Preserve, a privately-owned outdoor recreation area that includes a three-quarter mile Via Ferrata course. Via Ferrata is an Italian term meaning "by iron", and is described in the Preserve's brochure as "a

self-belayed climbing adventure for the whole family". The technique originated in Europe, where it was initially used to allow troops on foot to travel through the mountains. It has since become a popular recreational activity.

On Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>, CCG members Steve Adams, Ken Nichols, Dave Pick and I, along with Pine Mountain Grotto member Mel Eady, arrived at Nelson Rocks in the mid-afternoon. We paid \$30 each, which included the issue of Petzl Zyper shock-absorbing lanyards. The use of regular cows-tails should be avoided on a Via Ferrata, as the impact force in the event of a fall could be severe. We provided our own

Mel Eady of Pine Mountain Grotto makes it safely across the bridge





