

TAG Tour Tales

2024 NSS Convention, Monday 7/1 Sewanee, TN

Urgent Need: AV Equipment Operator

We urgently need someone experienced in operating AV equipment to regulate sound and lights in the projection booth at McCrory Auditorium for today's program.

- Time slots: 9 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm

Please see Lesley Colton at the Volunteer table in the registration area after the opening ceremony.

Volunteer Opportunities at Fine Arts Salon

Volunteers are needed to monitor the Fine Arts Salon in 4-hour shifts from Monday to Friday. Shifts are from 9 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm. Please sign up at the volunteer desk at registration.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

We have multiple other volunteer opportunities available, including driving golf carts to shuttle people from parking areas to sessions. Please sign up for these roles at the volunteer desk.

Registration Information and Hours

Don't forget to bring your ID to registration. Arm bands for beverages at functions will be issued during registration, and volunteers will need to verify your birth date.

Registration Hours:

- **Sunday:** 7 AM – 12 Midnight
- **Monday through Thursday:** 8 AM – 5 PM
- **Friday:** 8 AM – Noon

Please ensure you have your ID ready to make the process smooth and efficient.

First Aid

General first aid services are available at the Registration desk. The staff there can also call for on-site medical assistance if needed.

Emergency Information

Emergencies: For emergencies, call 911 first. Then, you can request on-site medical assistance from Registration or SPELEOWEB1 (773-536-9321). SPELEOWEB1 is staffed 24/7.

AED Locations:

- Outside the bathrooms near Registration
- In the Gymnasium lobby
- In the Chapel
- At The Gauntlet
- In a BLS pack carried by on-site medical

Narcan Locations:

- In the Gymnasium with the AED
- Carried by on-site medical

Time Change Notice: All Feds Cave Management Meeting

Per Pat Seizer, the start time for the All Feds Cave Management Meeting has been changed to 2:30 PM.

Time Change Notice

Tuesday's Special Session on Exploring Caves Beyond Public Land will now run from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm instead of 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Attention: Cup Washing Notice

WARNING! The cups received at registration for party beverages are NOT dishwasher friendly. Please hand wash only. We've confirmed this after one was inadvertently put through a dishwasher locally and came out slightly pitted.

Fine Arts Salon Gallery Opening Reception!

Join us for the gallery opening reception in the Fine Arts Salon today!

Date: Monday, 7/1

Time: 12 PM noon

Sponsored by: Speleobooks

Be there or be square!

2024 LUMINARY TALK SCHEDULE

This year, we are proud to showcase three outstanding women cavers as part of our Luminary Talks! Due to some conflicting scheduling information in the Program Guide, we are reiterating the official schedule below for your reference. All talks will take place from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM CT in McCrory Hall Auditorium!

- **WEDNESDAY:** Dr. Hazel Barton
- **THURSDAY:** Emily Davis (Classic)
- **FRIDAY:** Dr. Louise Hose

Don't miss these inspiring presentations!

James G. Mitchell Award

The James G. Mitchell Award is conferred by the NSS for the best scientific paper presented at the annual convention by a student NSS member. If you are eligible and have not yet applied, please contact Roy Jameson, award subchair, at 540-449-2140 or rjcb19@comcast.net.

Vertical Training Commission Table

Visit the Vertical Training Commission (VTC) at the Wood-Alligood Gymnasium on the following dates:

- Monday 7/1: 9 am - 12 pm
- Tuesday 7/2: 9 am - 5 pm
- Wednesday 7/3: 9 am - 5 pm

We will have copies of the new book "Basic Vertical Techniques" available for sale. Additionally, supplies will be provided for making a set of cowstails for your vertical kit, while supplies last. Cowstails are free, with a suggested \$10 donation. See you there!

Book Signings Schedule

Monday, July 1

- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: John Mylroie signing a dozen new books in various genres.
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: George Dasher signing his science fiction trilogy.

Tuesday, July 2

- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM:
 - Roger Brucker and Carolina Shrewsbury signing "Mama Says, DON'T CAVE. Ergor's Unbelievable Cave Stories."
 - John Lamar Cole signing "The Ephemeral Everything." Larry Matthews signing "Caves of the South Cumberland Plateau" at the NSS bookstore.

Wednesday, July 3

- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Rick Stanton signing "Aquanaut."

All book signings will be held at Speleobooks except Larry Matthews will be at the NSS bookstore.

Longtime Member Recognition

At the Awards Banquet on Friday evening, we will honor NSS members who have been with us for 50, 60, and 70 years. Their names will be projected on the big screen, and we will applaud their dedication and commitment. You can find the list of these esteemed members here:

https://caves.org/publications/2024_Long_Time_Members.pdf

Longtime members, please visit the NSS store to pick up your veteran's pin, free of charge.

Donate Your Items to the Convention Auction

Want to help support the NSS? Every year at the convention, we hold an auction of items donated by members to raise funds for a cause. Do you have any notable or valuable items for the auction? We'd love it if you would consider donating them! This year, all proceeds will benefit Vertical Bill's Tower.

Auction Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday evening at the Convention
- **Location:** NSS Bookstore

How to Donate:

- Bring your items to the NSS Bookstore at the Convention.
- Alternatively, you can send items directly to the Convention Chair:

Maureen Handler
900 Old Sewanee Rd
Sewanee, TN 37375

Thank you for your support and contributions!

Local Hydrology Information

For insights into the hydrology of the Sewanee area, visit www.sewaneewater.com. This resource summarizes the research of Dr. Martin Knoll, a hydrogeologist at the University of the South in Sewanee.

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JSS Sessions Starting Monday

The Junior Speleological Society (JSS) will have sessions starting Monday. For more information, please contact Tor Steinke at:

- Email: jss@caves.org
- Phone: 720-289-8189

For the detailed schedule, please visit the [JSS Schedule](#).

Cafeteria Dining Information

Breakfast:

- **Days:** Monday - Friday
- **Time:** 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- **Cost:** \$8.00 plus tax

- **Payment:** Cash or credit

Lunch:

- **Days:** Monday - Friday
- **Time:** 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **Cost:** \$12.50 plus tax
- **Payment:** Cash or credit

Both breakfast and lunch will be served at the campus cafeteria.

Ice Availability

Ice is available at the on-campus campground. We deliver in the mornings and early evenings for \$5 per bag. If you have an ice emergency, talk to a staff member, and we'll assist between deliveries.

WiFi Information for Campus Buildings

WiFi is available in all campus buildings under the network name Summer_SAS.

Password: Summer@SAS1981!

(Note: The "!" is part of the password and not punctuation for the sentence.)

Feel free to connect using this information for convenient access throughout the campus buildings.

NSS BoG Directors: Work Room Available

Room 11 in Simmonds Hall has been made available by Convention staff as a courtesy for NSS Board of Governors (BoG) Directors and Officers. Feel free to use this space for meetings, calls, and other needs during the Convention.

Decon and Gear Cleaning Station Information

The decon and gear cleaning station will be operational starting Sunday night.

Decon Hours:

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Additional Facilities:

- Water hoses, brushes, and tubs available after hours.
- After hours hot water bath drop-off is also available.

Ensure your gear is clean and ready with our convenient cleaning options!

Did You Notice?

There's a really cool drinking fountain/refill station in the first hallway to the left coming from the parking lot at the school. Please use it to save on plastic and paper waste. It's ice-cold and deliciously tasty!

Stonewall Cavers Dinner

Howdy, Stonewall Grotto! Join us for our annual dinner at Fiesta Grill Mexican Restaurant on Sunday night at 7 PM. If you're returning late from the Geology Field Trip, feel free to join us whenever you can! Hope to see you there!

Urgent: Assistance Needed with Tire Change!

BNC urgently needs someone to help change a vehicle tire on a rental (we have the spare and the jack). Please come see Mike at the Speleobooks booth on Vendor Row to lend a helping hand!

New CaveSim at 2024 NSS Convention

Come check out the brand new CaveSim mobile cave debuting at the convention! This enhanced version features three levels of passage, a new helmet tracking scoring system, and over double the passage compared to the original. CaveSim will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am to noon on Friday. Find us near registration. Participation is free!

Custom Vertical Gear Needed

Chuck C is looking for someone to sew custom vertical gear. If you know someone on-site or off-site who can help, please email cmcritti@gmail.com.

Visit the Cave Information Booth

Don't forget to stop by the Cave Information Booth, located next to the Gauntlet Vertical Course in the middle of the campus.

Found SCCi Ball Cap

A SCCi ball cap was found under a seat in the front row at the GSS Meeting on Saturday. If it belongs to you, please reclaim it at Registration.

Quality Time Underground

I want to thank Maureen for ensuring that we all have the opportunity to enjoy some quality time underground.

Happy Canada Day!

Wishing all cavers a Happy Canada Day from the Canadian cavers at the Convention! We have members joining us from Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec.

Vendor Ads

Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI)

ANNOUNCING A NEW PRODUCT! We have a limited number of pre-production NEWLY REDESIGNED double chest rollers available for purchase. These are combined with newly redesigned chest harness for rope-walkers. Only 19 available at Convention only.

Don't miss out on an incredible deal at the end of the hallway! Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI) is here vending spools of rope at unbeatable discounted rates. Static and dynamic ropes available. Hurry down to the end of the hallway and grab your spool today.

Caver Co-Op Now Open!

The Caver Co-Op is open for business! Shop for your gear and bring in your consignment goods. You'll need to fill out some forms

for consignment. Don't forget to bring your own reusable bag to pack up all your goodies!

SCCi Auction: Complete Set of NSS News!

Visit the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) to bid on a FULL set of NSS News! Your participation supports SCCi's efforts to protect caves and karst environments.

Local Paint Rock Agate and Jewelry!

Visit Vendor Paint Rock Mountain for a variety of local Tennessee Paint Rock Agate jewelry and stones available at our store. Come by and see us to explore our collection!

Free Print of an Alabama Cave!

Looking for some cool cave art? Stop by Landjoff USA on Vendors Row to pick up a free printed photograph of an Alabama cave (photo by Kelly Smallwood), while supplies last. Don't miss out on this unique piece!

Pottery Showcase at Guadalupe Mountain Lampworks!

Come see the latest pottery inventory by Peter Jones at Guadalupe Mountain Lampworks! We have a stunning collection of new pots this year. Visit us on Vendors Row to explore these lovely creations!

New NSS Apparel Now Available!

Visit the NSS Bookstore & Office to discover our latest apparel additions! We now offer four new colors of baseball caps and new black bat logo hoodies. Don't miss out—they're all the rage!

Big Sale on Cave Gear!

Visit the On Rope 1 booth on Vendors Row for a special sale on essential cave gear and PMI pit rope. Don't miss out on these great deals!

Clearance Gear Announcement

Bill Liebman announces that the remaining "Bob & Bob" cave gear inventory is on sale at low prices in the Commissions Coop sales room.