

The Caving Courier of Cobleskill



Monday, June 23, 2025

Submit material at <https://caves.org/convention/dailyrag/submissions/> by 4 p.m. daily. Or drop a legibly written blurb at Registration.

Today's Schedule (Typically, the CCC schedule is most accurate.)

Event	Time	Where
Opening Ceremony	8:00–8:30	Main Entrance Bouck
Speleology for Cavers	8:30–Noon	Wheeler 130
BOG Open Meeting	9:00–Noon	Upper Champlin
NCRC Annual Meeting	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 215
Introduction to Sketching in Cave: Digital and Paper	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 204 (Digital) 205 (Paper)
Book Signing by Roger Brucker	Noon–1:00	Vendors area
Speleology Class Lunch	Noon–1:00	Wheeler 130
BOG Lunch (Closed)	Noon–2:00	Upper Champlin
Fine Arts Salon Opening	Noon–2:00	Unity Ctr.
Communications & Electronics Lunch	12:30–2:00	Wheeler 203
Cave Conservancy Roundtable	1:00–4:00	Wheeler 230
Vertical Training Commission (VTC)	1:00–4:00	Wheeler 209
Speleology for Cavers	1:00–5:00	Wheeler 130
Introduction to Sketching in Cave: Digital and Paper	1:00–5:00	In a Cave
Communications & Electronic Session	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 203
BOG Meeting (Closed)	2:00–5:00	Upper Champlin
Howdy Party Dinner	Taps open at 5:30, Dinner 6:30, Party Midnight	Fairgrounds

Luminaries

Bruce Smith

Tuesday, June 24 at 12:30 PM (Bouck Auditorium)

Great Vertical Transition

Jim Pisarowicz

Wednesday, June 25 at 12:30 PM (Bouck Auditorium)

Seems As if All the Decisions in My Life Were Because I Am a Caver

Bob Addis

Thursday, June 26 at 12:30 PM (Bouck Auditorium)

I Never Let Fear or Common Sense Hold Me Back: 64 Years of Spelean Adventure, Some Accomplishments, and Lots of Mischief

Silent Auction at the NSS

Bookstore

From the rare book collection of past NSS President Rane Curl. Bids may be placed on silent auction items until 2 p.m. Thursday when the silent auction ends.

Many more items in the live auction in Bouck Hall Wednesday night. Live auction items may be previewed at the NSS Bookstore.

Online Schedule Tips

The online schedule at <https://talks.caving.dev/nss-convention-2025/> has a couple of useful features to help you find and attend sessions.

- 1) In the upper right hand area of the box around the talk abstract, there is a star (you may need to scroll to the right). Press the star. Now at the top, you have a star and number. Press that to see only the talks you have selected.
- 2) As you go through the day, the schedule should move to the current time so you can see what is going on now.
- 3) At the top of the page, there is a Version 0.XX. Tap that and you can get a changelog showing the change history of the schedule.
- 4) We are investigating a report of trouble accessing the schedule from the Wi-Fi. It should be OK if your phone is not on Wi-Fi.
- 5) Be sure to thank the online schedule team by bringing us good beer.

Editor's Note: The online schedule team comprises Philip Balister and Paul Walko. Please be sure to bring them good beer because they said they would share with the editor.

Caver's Choice—Cave Ballads

Look for the listener's kiosk near or at the Fine Arts Salon. There you can read the lyrics and background to our entries for 2025. BE SURE to vote for CAVER'S CHOICE no later than noon Thursday, which gives us just enough time to announce the winner at the Salon that evening. We have a number of exceptional submissions this year. One judge said he wanted to give them all first place. You can buy discounted CDs of the entries in past salons at the Caver's Co-op (while they last—once gone, they're gone).

2025 National Cave & Karst Management Symposium

Since 1975, the National Cave & Karst Management Symposium has been the preeminent conference for cavers, cave managers, conservancies, and agency resource specialists to share concepts in the effective management of cave and karst resources. Our week-long symposium is a gathering of inquisitive minds and passionate experts who share a common ethic for the responsible management of these rare environments.

Held every 2 years, our next symposium is set for October 6–10, 2025, in Ely, Nevada—the heart of the Great Basin. We hope you can join us!



Vertical Section Event Schedule

There are some late revisions to the Convention Program concerning the Vertical Section Events. Here's an overview of those corrections.

Tuesday, Discover Vertical Caving: 9:00–Noon, 1st Session; Noon–2:30 2nd Session ; and 2:30–5:00 3rd (overflow) Session. All sessions are at the Neil Robbins Field House, \$30.00 fee. Walk-ins are welcome.

Wednesday, 9:00–5:00, Rope Climbing Competition at the Neil Robbins Field House.

Thursday, Vertical Section Presentations:

9:00–10:00 "Safe Basic Rigging" by Jessica Van Ord.

10:00–11:00 "How Does Your Frog Measure Up"? by Talia Sepiol.

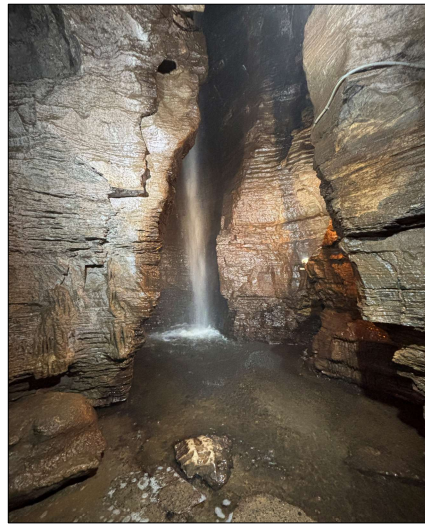
11:00–12:00-"Rope, What's On Your Descender"?

12:00–1pm-Vertical Section Annual meeting, open to all.

Announcements and Personals

NOTE: **CR9** (a local road) will be CLOSED as of today, June 23.

Secret Caverns offers a half off discount for tours for convention-goers, so it's \$10 instead of \$20! Wear your name badge! It's CASH ONLY, but very much worth it. The editor and her husband went on Sunday afternoon and it's a great little cave.



Photos by Meredith Hall Weberg

Stonewall Grotto Meeting Tuesday @ 6:00 PM

Howdy, Stonewall Grotto! We've switched things up this year. We will be having our annual meeting on TUESDAY this year, at 6:00 p.m. at The Cowboy's Taqueria. Hope to see you there!

VTC Annual Meeting on Monday 6/23 @ 1–4 PM

The Vertical Training Commission (VTC) will be at the NSS 2025 Convention, and we'd love for you to join us for our Annual Meeting on Monday, June 23, from 1:00–4:00 PM in Wheeler 209.

VTC is creating a training curriculum to help interested individuals obtain the appropriate and sufficient competencies, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills needed to be safe while vertical caving. To help teach interested individuals, VTC is developing a vertical training program that provides hands-on

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experience through vertical training courses that are accessible, attainable, and understandable to a diverse range of interested people. At the annual meeting, VTC will be providing progress updates, discussing next steps, soliciting community input, and answering your questions. See you there!

I gotta say, **Dave Socky**, you went to great lengths to get out of working the Photo Salons this week. Seriously, we all wish you a quick and full recovery!

Free Post-convention Camping at “The Cave Slum”

The Rockeaters 2.0 will be hosting a FREE POST-CONVENTION CAMP at our property, “The Cave Slum,” located in Sharon, NY, 30 minutes from Convention, still in the heart of cave country. Camping goes from Saturday the 28th to... infinity! Stay as long or short as you'd like! Doesn't bother us. But the porta potty leaves on July 3rd, and you will have to start mowing the lawn if you decide to make it your new home.

Details:

- Primitive tent or car camping (No RVs, but van-life vans are fine.)
- Porta Potty (donations welcomed)
- Free firewood, already split
- Propane camp stove for cooking (propane supplied)
- More chairs than you can sit in, and a big picnic table with EZ-Ups
- Gravel driveway and lawn to park on
- Marshall's and Cedar Well Caves within walking distance
- Led and park-n-go trips to private caves by request. (including Single X, Marshall's, Chevy/Pasture, and Howes Quarry Caves and historic mine!)
- Convenient stores and Dollar General a mile down the road.
- Most important of all, good vibes
- 7 Vehicles MAX (due to parking); no limit on # of people

Call me (Julian Benson, 845-554-7058) to register.

Merchant Discounts

If you are not offered an expected convention discount for any reason from one of the local businesses, please see our staff rather than addressing employees. Thank you for visiting our small community.

Lifetime Cavers

Don't forget to wear your yellow “Lifetime Caver” t-shirt (courtesy of Speleobooks) to the Howdy Party. Meet on the bleacher at 7:30 for a group photo.



A cave entrance with a stream coming out of it in the Adirondacks.
Photo by Mitch Berger