

The Caving Courier of Cobleskill



Tuesday, June 24, 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.)

TUESDAY		
Event	Time	Where
Yoga	8:00–9:00	Bouck Ballroom
US Exploration	9:00–Noon	Bouck Auditorium
Cave Conservation & Management	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 100
Speleothem Repair Workshop	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 205
Cavers Against Sexual Harassment	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 215
Discover Vertical Caving	9:00–Noon	Field House
Conservation & Science Division Meeting	Noon–1:00	Wheeler 100
Discover Vertical Caving	Noon–2:30	Field House
Luminary Speaker: Bruce Smith	12:30–1:30	Bouck Aud
Cave Conservation & Management	1:00–5:00	Wheeler 100
Stop the Bleed	2:00–4:00	Wheeler 213
US Exploration	2:00–5:00	Bouck Aud.
Convention Planning	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 130
Discover Vertical Caving (Overflow)	2:30–5:00	Field House
Fellows and New Members Reception	6:30–8:30	Bouck Ballroom
Open Mic	8:00 start	Fairgrounds
Featured Speaker: Robbie Shone: Life as a Cave Photographer: A Journey Into the Depths of the Earth	9:00	Bouck Auditorium

Online Schedule Available Via Campus Wi-Fi

The IT people have sorted various Wi-Fi issues so you should be able to access <https://talks.caving.dev/nss-convention-2025/schedule/> via Wi-Fi now. At the same time various other issues that annoyed nerds were also fixed. If you were having issues, check again.

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

TODAY is Dave Socky's birthday, so come by the nonprofit tables to help us send Dave a special birthday card. It will be available only until maybe around 11 this morning. It has to go to Albany to give to him.

Volunteers Needed!

The NSS Convention is 100% volunteer run and we need your help! Join the What'sApp group chat or stop by the volunteering table to sign up.

Coot & Holler Gazette

We have positions available at the campground security, fine arts salon, party helpers, and golf cart drivers. We can't do this without all of you!

US Exploration Schedule Revision

Revised US Exploration Session Schedule

Session Chair: Pat Kambesis

9:00–9:30 Explorations Old and New in Hidden River Cave, Liam Tobin

9:30–10:00 Fern Cave Project, Rand Heazlett

10:00–10:30 The Kamapua'a Cave System, Big Island, Pat Kambesis

10:30–10:45 BREAK

10:45–11:15 Red Tail and CrumbleTop Karst Exploration, John Dunham

11:15–11:45 Ft. Stanton Cave: Breakout in Three Dimensions, John Lyles

LUNCH

2:00–2:30 Caves of the Carrizo Badlands, Carol Vesely

2:30–3:00 Exploration of the Crater Cave Complex, 1935 Lava Flow, Hawai'i, Doug Medville

3:00–3:30 The Last Gasp- Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico, Pat Kambesis

Shuttle Service for Tuesday and Thursday Nighttime Events

The shuttle bus between the campground and the college will be providing extra service for the nighttime events on Tuesday and Thursday.

On Tuesday, it will run between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to accommodate those attending the Fellows and New Members Reception and the talk by featured speaker Robbie Shone.

On Thursday, it will run continuously from its usual afternoon hours until 11 p.m. to accommodate those attending the Photo Salon and Salon Awards shows.

Sign Up to Help Keep the FAS Salon Gallery Open

FAS Chair Joel Haus is not at convention this year. I was just told that it is up to the Salon to furnish volunteers to man the FAS Gallery from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. Usually in 2-hour slots. A signup sheet for people for the rest of the week will be placed in the Salon Gallery on Tuesday morning, if none has showed up by late Monday. People are also needed to help with teardown on Friday. Inquire at registration or the FAS Gallery.

Scholarships! 2025 National Cave & Karst Management Symposium

The Dr. George N. Huppert Scholarship Program can provide reduced (or FREE!) registration to the 2025 NCKMS conference this October in Ely, Nevada. The program is open to all those involved in cave and karst management, and may be used to encourage papers as well as attendance.

Scholarships are also available for cave conservancy members as well as federal and state employees involved in cave management who may be experiencing travel difficulties under current federal restrictions.

Priority is given to applicants who will be attending the full symposium; applications for day passes may not be considered appropriate.

Check our website for full details at: <https://ely2025.nckms.org/symposium/scholarships.php>

Announcements and Personals

Happy Birthday, Dave Socky! Love from MSS

You May Have Heard About Dave Socky . . .

Please keep Dave Socky in your thoughts and prayers. On Saturday, 6/21, Dave was working on a dark stage preparing for upcoming presentations, when he had a bad fall. He was rushed to the local hospital, then airlifted to the Trauma Center in Albany.

He suffered some broken ribs, a nick in his spleen (which was repaired with surgery) and a bruised kidney. Fortunately, he did not receive a concussion or damage to his spine or lungs. He is being provided excellent care and is making progress. Today he sat up, walked, and may get a regular hospital room today or tomorrow. Nick (Socky) is due to arrive tomorrow to help Mary Sue with Dave. Dave will be able to stay for the rest of the Convention. (Sent by Marian McConnell)

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!

Please **contact Gary K. Soule** of Wisconsin if you know of any **new grotto or cave patches** that have come out: (920) 743-6488 (leave a message) or see me in person.

Lost & Found @ Registration

- One key (not a set of keys, just one key)
 - One Fitbit
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The **EV charging station** on campus and Lock Street (next to the library) do not work!

Micro Racks

Wm Shrewsbury has taken over micro rack and chest roller production from retiring Carroll Bassett. Visit your favorite speleovendor with confidence that you'll still be able to purchase the best-selling rappel device and roller out there, as well as replacement bars.

NSS Booth at International Congress Next Month

For speleologists going to the International Congress in Brazil next month, check out our NSS booth in the exhibit hall there. Virtual reality tours of the Snowy River passage of Fort Stanton Cave, as well as a giant photo of Snowy River for posed photographs, await. Also, sign up at the booth for info of a location and time for the group photo of NSS members attending. Thanks, John Moses

Rain Overnight to Sunday Morning Total 0.49"

I (Bill Park) have an NWS certified rain gauge set up at my campsite adjacent to the JSS. On Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. after the rain finished, I measured 0.49".

Monday morning's observation was 0.00". Although my measurement here is unofficial, I included it in my daily post to the CoCoRaHS.org website. If you are interested in observing weather, stop by and chat sometime.

Volunteers needed at Gate (campground), Security, and First Aid!

Congratulations to Jill/Bill/211/JII who renewed vows on Sunday. (Sorry, couldn't read the writing.)

Do not visit the Countryside Inn in Richmondville (555 Ploss Road). They have **bedbugs**.

I had a copy of *Trapped* held at the Caver Co-Op. **Whoever picked it up, I would like it returned.** Thank you, Greg Valent, NSS 14085RL

Is the **Circus Museum** at the campground going to the NSS headquarters?

Thanks so much to Allan Weberg for stapling all of yesterday's hardcopies of the daily rag, and to Leslie Hatfield for her patience with the printer situation, and Blake Jördan for his printer and expertise!

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Books

George Dasher and John Mylroie have Sci-Fi and Fantasy books for sale in Consignment Sales (all week). Stop by and spend your hard-earned money to feed our addiction.

Clarksville Cave Preserve Surficial Geology Tour (Saturday, 6/28/25; 9:00 a.m.)

Join geologist Paul Rubin for a full tour of the surficial geology of the Clarksville Cave Preserve. Envision the passage of multiple glaciers over 1,000 feet thick overhead. Dip your feet in the icy waters of Clarksville's proglacial lake, being wary of drifting icebergs. View meltwater channels and sinkholes once roaring with glacial water and sediments that cascaded into Clarksville Cave. Correlate surficial karst features with the cave's conduit network formed beneath glacier ice. Examine the 390-million-year-old Onondaga limestone and thrust faults. Inspect the Clarksville chert that controls the cave's resurgence. Learn of 4,000 years of Native American habitation in the area. Tour limited to 20 people. Meet at the Clarksville Preserve parking lot, followed by car relocation offsite. Reservation required with Paul at: hydroquest@yahoo.com.

VTC in the Field House on 6/24 and 6/25

The Vertical Training Commission (VTC) will be in the Field House on Tuesday, 6/24, and Wednesday, 6/25, with a table set up for convention attendees to visit. Chat with a VTC volunteer, make your own set of cow's tails, grab some free stickers and brochures to take with you, and purchase your own copy of VTC Level 1 Student Materials.

Visit CaveSim for Horizontal and Vertical Cave Exploration Fun

CaveSim is back! Stop by to test your horizontal caving skills in 150 feet of mobile cave passage, or bring your vertical gear to practice your rope work skills on the CaveSim ropes tower, or learn about various haul systems for vertical cave rescue. CaveSim is located just downhill from registration, and participation is completely free. If you've seen the old version of CaveSim, be sure to come by and check out the new cave with its soft, padded floor and new scoring system. For those not familiar with CaveSim, it is a cave conservation education tool that allows you to explore an artificial cave and receive a score based on how careful you are about not touching speleothems, cave biota, and artifacts. We are open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. each day.

CO2 Monitors Dashboard

We have placed CO2 monitors in several classrooms, available to view at <https://mesh.caving.dev/public-dashboards/824247d83f71447f945f1a703148480e>.

River Party

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday behind the decon station for a casual river party. Cool off on the hottest day with your cool caver friends!! No glass, water shoes recommended, and don't go past the waterfall!
