

The Caving Courier of Cobleskill



Wednesday, June 25, 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.)

WEDNESDAY		
Event	Time	Where
International Exploration	9:00–Noon	Bouck Aud
Biospeleology Session	9:00–12:10	Wheeler 100
NSF Trustees Meeting (open)	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 130
Speleothem Repair Workshop Part II	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 205
Cave Digging Section	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 215
Vertical Climbing Contests	9:00–5:00	Field House
Photo Workshop	9:00–Noon	In Cave
Luminary Speaker: Jim Pisarowicz	12:30–1:30	Bouck Aud
Book Signing by Roger Brucker	Noon–1:00	Vendors area
Vertical Climbing Contests	Noon–5:00	Field House
Photo Workshop	Noon–5:00	In Cave
Planned Giving	1:00–3:00	Wheeler 130
International Exploration	1:30–5:10	Bouck Aud
Stop the Bleed	2:00–4:00	Wheeler 213
Congress of Grottos	2:00–5:00	Warner 120
Biospeleology Session	2:00–5:30	Wheeler 100
NSS Auction	7:00 starts	Bouck Auditorium
Campground Party	7:00: Taps open: 8:00–11:00: Band	Fairgrounds

Luminaries

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.

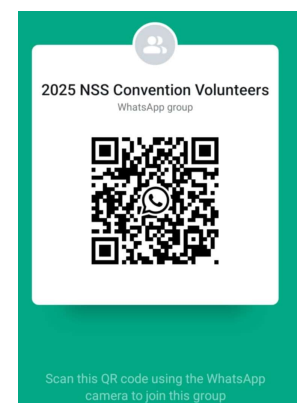
Volunteers Needed!

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.

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

Caver Co-Op

If you have items put aside for later purchase, they need to be paid for before NOON on Thursday. After that, they are put on the general sales tables!



Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

Get Your Raffle Tickets!

Grab your raffle tickets from anyone (directors) wearing a “Buy Raffle Tickets from Me” pin. Top prize is an NSS Life Membership! Other prizes include Minus 90 cave suits, a Milwaukee hammer drill, Southeast Expedition Medical med kit, Fenix headlamp donated by Inner Mountain Outfitters, a Swaygo Push Pack, a grappling hook, and Edelrid climbing gear! Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. The raffle ends Friday. We’re doing the drawing BEFORE the banquet between 4:30 and 5. Must be present to win. The proceeds go to the Cave Acquisition Fund.

Announcements and Personals

Mike Frazier needs a **ride to the Albany airport** on Thursday afternoon. His plane leaves at 3:30 P.m. Call Mike Frazier at 719-394-5850 if you can help.

2025 National Cave & Karst Management Symposium

Free stuff for NSS members!

The NSS is now an official sponsor of the 2025 NCKMS conference set for October 6–10 in Ely, Nevada! As an NSS member, you are now entitled to a 10% registration discount. Use code “lifetime25” when you're ready to register—the code is valid through the end of August and is limited to current NSS members.

Since 1975, the National Cave & Karst Management Symposium has been the preeminent conference for cave explorers, cave managers, conservancies, and agency specialists to share concepts in the effective management of cave and karst resources. Our week-long symposium is open to all cavers! Full details are online at: ely2025.nckms.org

[Pro-tip: Take a selfie or group picture in front of one of our banners hanging at convention this week. Post it on Facebook to your grotto page, personal page, or the NSS community group and hash(tag) it with @NCKMS and @westerncaves. After convention, we’ll pick at least a couple posters to win official Western Cave Conservancy or NCKMS t-shirts! (posts must be public for us to see them!)]

NCKMS Steering Committee Luncheon

This is the annual meeting of the NCKMS Steering Committee, and is open to all. We’ll hear updates on the upcoming Symposium in Ely, Nevada, this October, discuss plans for the 2027 Symposium, and entertain ideas for 2029. This is a working lunch, so bring your meal to the meeting. We’ll try to finish in time to let folks still grab some food if they don’t bring it with them.

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

Would all attendees signed up for the **Schoharie post-convention trip**, stop by Speleobooks today or tomorrow. (From Emily Davis, Classic)

The **EV charging station** on campus and Lock Street (next to the library) do not work!

Cady Soukup has two “extra” meal tickets (absent cavers). Contact her at cadyasoukup@icloud.com.

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

2027 Convention Staff Opportunities

While we are waiting for the Board of Governors to officially accept our bid, we are actively recruiting for the remaining staff members helping to plan for the 2027 Convention in Del Rio, Texas on 14-18 June. Find Crash (26791) this week and let him know you would like to help. He'll let you know what is available and get your contact info. And we hope to see you all in Texas!

Safe Convention Reminders

If you run into issues, we have people available to help: The general Convention helpline number is 1-773-536-9321. Cave safety and issues in caves: Use teamwork and cave softly! If anything goes wrong, please notify Erik Nieman of any incidents or safety issues.

Harassment, discomfort, or issues between people: please treat everyone with respect, practice consent, and know the NSS Anti-Harassment Policy [link: <https://caves.org/anti-harassment-policy/>]. Always check for an enthusiastic yes—don't put the burden on someone to say "no." If you want support with an issue, or just want to talk about it, the following volunteers can talk it over with you confidentially, intervene to help educate and deescalate person(s) involved, or coordinate other responses as needed. You can ask for help finding one of us at Registration.

For Wed-Sat the folks available will be: Elizabeth "Boof" Truchan, Emma Enos, Jim Minie, John Dunham, Leslie Hatfield, Morgan Ingalls, and Mystik Miller

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.

Cave Art

Come see the extraordinary fine art of Michael Kehs and Peter Jones in the vendors room in the back. You'll see beautiful works in wood and pottery. There'll be bats and stalactites and stalagmites. You'll see dragons and dragonflies. Come in and make your friendly artists happy with a purchase.

Cave House Museum of Mining & Geology

Posted on their Facebook page, the hours open for NSS members:
Wednesday, 6/25: Private tour in the morning; Open 1:30–4:30 PM
Thursday, 6/26: Private tour in the morning; Open 1:30–3:30 PM
Friday, 6/27: TBD
Saturday, 6/28: TBD

Conventioneers and the public are welcome. There is no admittance fee. The cave is still muddy from the early June storms. Boots are best. CHMMG is located at 136 Blowing Rock Rd, Howes Cave. This is the original entrance to what is now Howe Caverns. The Museum was originally one of the hotels on site for early tourists.

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

Reservation required with Paul at: hydroquest@yahoo.com. Details were in Tuesday's *The Caving Courier of Cobleskill*.

POGO Players: Let's be friends! 9242 7579 3990

Free Post-convention Camping at "The Cave Slum"

Call Julian Benson, 845-554-7058, to register. Details were in Monday's edition.

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 cows 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>.

On Site Gear Repair

Bring your clean and dry caving gear to the Out Standing Stitches booth in the vendor area to have it repaired this week!

Help a Wayward Caver Get to NYC

Hello friends. I need of a ride to JFK before 11 a.m. Saturday and would immensely appreciate any help in getting there! On the way to convention Sunday night, I hit a deer and totaled my rental car. Fortunately, I am fine but no longer have transport to my flight. What I can offer in return: 1) gas money, 2) great car tunes, 3) the latest gos n thoughts. Thank you! :D

Boof Truchan, 412-770-6398, Btruchan@caves.org

Lost prescription reading glasses. Brown wire frame prescription reading glasses lost. Please text 724-433-0854 if found.

The **CO2 monitors** are there “because we can,” replied one of the nerds when asked why they are there.

Campus Bookstore

The campus bookstore is open from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. They stocked up on snacks!

Composting

They are composting in the dining hall. So, if you have leftover food (food only!) on your plate, please scrape it into the green bucket next to the composting sign. On Tuesday at lunch, there was an employee standing there asking if you wanted to compost.
