

TAGGAYOF

A photograph of a person rappelling down a waterfall in a lush forest. The person is wearing a blue helmet, a backpack, and a harness, and is holding onto a rope. The waterfall is cascading over dark, mossy rocks. The surrounding area is filled with green foliage and trees.

Sewanee Mountain Grotto
Volume 4, Issue 4

TAG Caver ~ Volume 4 Issue 4

Winter 2013

TAG Caver is the official newsletter of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto & is published on a quarterly basis. Sewanee Mountain Grotto is a non-profit internal organization of the National Speleological Society dedicated to the exploration, mapping and conservation of caves. If you are interested in joining the Sewanee Mountain Grotto we invite you to attend one of our monthly grotto meetings. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at various locations in the heart of TAG. A typical meeting starts with a potluck dinner at 6pm CST, followed by the meeting at 7pm. On occasion we also have special presentations following our meetings. Annual dues are \$10 per person and are due in January. Please email sewaneemountaingrotto@caves.org or one of our editors for more information on the location of our next meeting. You may also visit our website at <http://www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto/>

2013 Sewanee Mtn Grotto Officers:

Chairperson: Kelly Smallwood
Vice Chair & Programs: Woody Woods
Treasurer: Blaine Grindle
Secretary: Bambi Dunlap
Member at Large: Maureen Handler
Conservation Chair: Maureen Handler
Survey Chair: Jason Hardy
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Email articles and photos for submissions to one of our editors. Content may include articles/photos from non members as well as other caving regions. Statements and opinions expressed in the TAG Caver do not necessarily reflect the policies or beliefs of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto or the NSS.



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*SMG Goes to the International Congress of Speleology in the Czech Republic!
Photos of SMG stickers with International Cavers by Danja Mewes.*

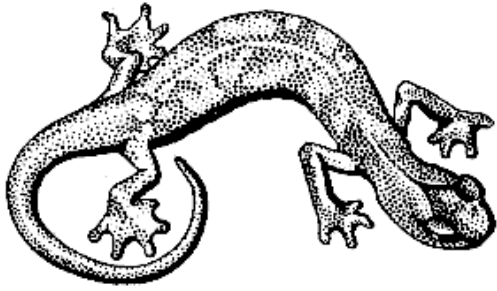
Front Cover:

*Snake Well, Marion County, Tennessee
By Jim Loftin*

Back Cover:

*Gatorade Win From Within Poster Contest
Design by Kelly Smallwood*

Calendar of Upcoming Events



January 11, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting at John Attaway's**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by business at 7pm.

February 8, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by business at 7pm.

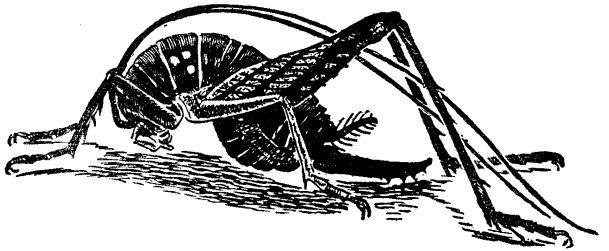
March 8, 2014 – **Sewanee Mountain Grotto Meeting**. Meeting starts at 6pm central with potluck dinner, followed by the business at 7pm.

May 30 – June 1, 2014 – **SERA Summer Cave Carnival**, hosted by the Chattanooga Grotto. Event will be at the new NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama.

July 14-18, 2014 – **NSS Convention**. The event will be at the new NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama. To preregister go to <http://nss2014.caves.org/>. Preregistration ends May 1, 2014.

Connect with the Grotto

If you're new to the Grotto, here are a few ways you can get to know other members:



Join us on a Grotto Trip, Survey Trip or a Cleanup.

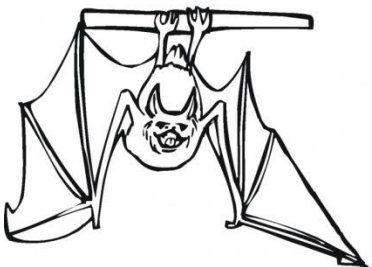


Sewanee Mountain Remailer

After you have joined the grotto, join our mailing list to keep up to date with cave trips and meetings. Go to: http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/sewanee_mountain_grotto and click join. Please provide your real name so we'll know who you are.



Facebook – Join our official unofficial Facebook Page to meet other area cavers and plan trips. Search for Sewanee Mountain Grotto under groups.



Support the Grotto ~ Grotto Merchandise

The Grotto has Baseball Hats for \$10 & 3" patches for \$5. Both items have our grotto logo on them. Please contact Kelly Smallwood at rowland7840@bellsouth.net to purchase.





THE TAG SCOOP

Our current membership is at 103 members!!!

Welcome new members: Ken Williams, Annette Bongiovanni, Josh Green, Abby Harmon, Matt Tomlinson, Jeannie Trowbridge, Kyle Wiseman, Kevin D'Amore, Theresa Averbeck, and Mike.

You can download an updated membership list from the Yahoo group.

Membership dues are \$10. You can pay Blaine at a meeting or send them via snail mail. Send check payable to Sewanee Mountain Grotto, 669 Old Sewanee Road, Sewanee, TN 37375. Make sure to include your contact information (name, address, phone #, email address, & NSS #).



2013 Sewanee Mountain Grotto Donations

\$500 to the SKTF for the purchase of a new trailer

\$1,000 to the SCCi at the TAG Fall Cave In as a "Matching Contributor"

\$1,000 to the SCCi General Funds

\$1,000 to the NSS New Building Fund

\$250 to the Lao Caving Expedition in Southeast Asia

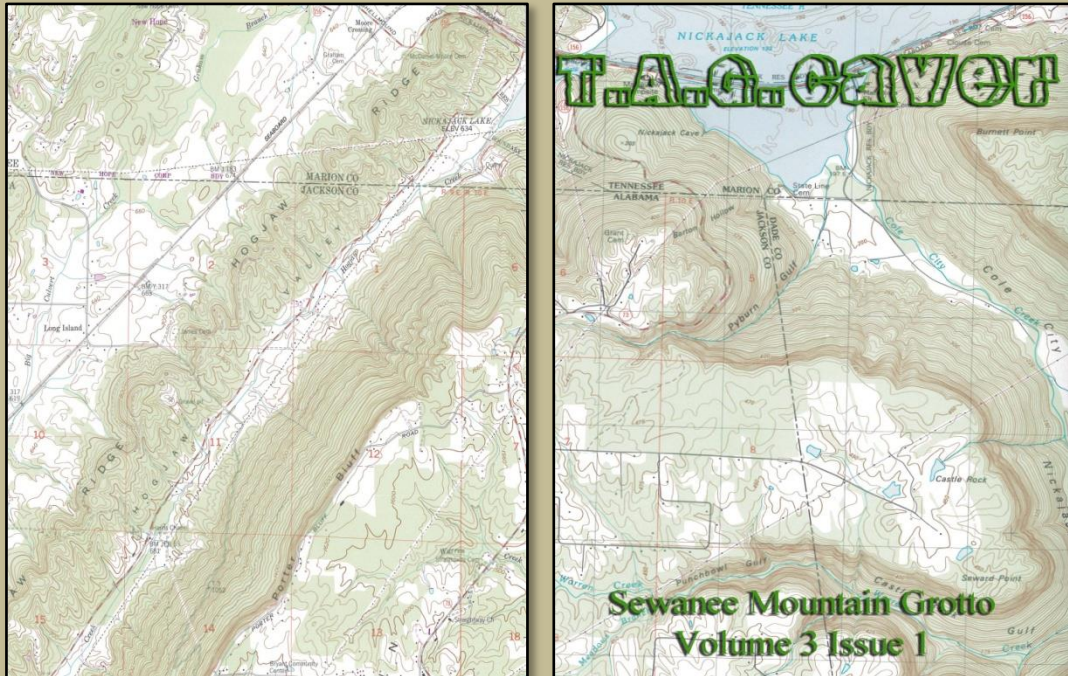
\$500 to the Chattanooga Hamilton County Rescue Squad

\$300 NSS Team 404 Member

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto. Without our members and Cave Fest donations we would not be able to give back so much to the caving community!

NSS Cover Art Salon 2013

I am very pleased to announce that our newsletter received TWO Honorable Mentions in the 2013 Cover Art Salon at Convention in Pennsylvania.



TAG Caver Volume 3, Issue 1



TAG Caver Volume 3, Issue 2



Cave Fest 2013
Anne Grindle & Woody Woods

From Anne: This year's Cave Fest was attended by approximately 150 cavers from all across the Southeast and several from the northern states. Many people enjoyed local caving trips and hiking to nearby waterfalls. Pup did a great job cooking the meat for the Saturday night feast. Moving the auction to Saturday night gave us a larger crowd, and we generated \$3,418 for the grotto. As a result, we got busy at our November meeting allocating spending this money on worthy projects with the SCCi and the NSS. Thanks to all who volunteered and attended Cave Fest 2013. We hope you will join us again in 2014!

From Woody: To all of you that attended Cave Fest this year, I hope you had great time and everyone made it home safe. Of course if you did any caving you had the normal scrapes, cuts, & bruises that comes with caving. I would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraiser. I would like to thank Maureen Handler for the use of Cavers Paradise, Thanks to Mud Puppy for cooking the meat as he did a great job. Special thanks to my Co Host Anne Grindle for the hard work and effort she put in. Kelly Smallwood Hardy for her hard work and all the other volunteers that made this event possible. We hope to see you in the years to come and if you had a good time bring a friend with you next year. We wish you a great year of caving, Be safe and see you all next year...

Cave Fest 2013
Income VS Expenses

Auction \$3,418

Yard Sale \$109

Misc Donations \$110

Rope Raffle \$605

T-shirts \$1,000

Mugs \$600

Patches \$10

Dues paid at event \$40

Total Income \$5,892

Meat \$113.88

Kegs + Homebrew \$431.12

Band \$350

Port o Lets \$215

Misc Supplies \$21.82

Popcorn/Cups \$10.31

Replacement Poles \$43.45

Plates, Utensils \$34.59

T-shirts \$525.25

Postage Donation Ltrs \$55.20

Total Expenses \$1,800.62

GROSS TOTAL \$4,091.38



Photos provided by Aaron Atz, Carl Bishop, Jeff Moore, Jim Loftin, & Nancy Aulenbach.





Noteworthy Hike in TAG

Franklin State Forest, Franklin & Marion, TN

Activities: Hiking, Photography, Nature Appreciation, Camping, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking

The land in the Franklin Marion State Forest was acquired in 1936 from the Cross Creek Coal Company and at that time was highly degraded. In 1940, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division assumed management and its current size is 7,737 acres. The Forest is on the Cumberland Plateau and located in south-central Tennessee, in Marion and Franklin Counties. About 99% of the land is forested and about 96% of the land is in mature hardwood saw timber and pole timber. Only about 3% of the Forest is pine. The area has a history of timber abuse by diameter-limit cuts and uncontrolled wildfires. Current silvicultural prescriptions are geared towards

timber stand improvement and management of wildlife habitat, so the area is sure to provide some opportunities to see native wildlife in the region. Over the years, the forest has been traditionally used for hunting, however other recreational uses include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and camping. There are several areas for picnicking, primitive camping, and approximately 20 miles of marked trails for hiking.

Some of the more well known trails in the forest are Tom Pack Falls and the West Rim Trail which takes you along the top of Swedens Cove.

Access: The forest is approximately 40 miles west of Chattanooga and is located off Highway 156. Access from the South is through South Pittsburg, TN and access from the North is through Sewanee, TN.



WHO WERE FIRM, OSCAR, AND PERRY GRIBBLE?

Marion O. Smith

On August 14, 1993, Gerald Moni and I went to tour the then recently reported King and King Saltpeter Caves, in a bluff overlooking the Collins River in Warren County, Tennessee. On our trek to these caves we located two unreported caves. The first had two entrances several hundred feet apart and a length of over 1,400 feet. It also had been mined for saltpeter and contained at least eight mounds of earth where leaching vats had once been. The earliest graffiti we saw was early 20th Century, including "Firm Gribble 3.1.14" and Oscar N. G." I liked the name Firm and named the cave after that person, not knowing whether it was a man or woman. The second new cave was a spring resurgence which I pushed to a length and vertical extent of 600 and 20 feet. Gerald named it Old Folks Cave. We then finally visited our two original objectives, and made no additional observations regarding old graffiti.¹

Fast forward to 2013. John L. Smyre and I on February 28 decided to map Firm Gribble Cave. We got most of it done that day except a particularly unappealing low, wet, muddy crawl. I again noticed the "Firm Gribble" and other names. The following August 27 John and I completed, after "only" a twenty year lapse, his survey of King Saltpeter Cave (372 feet), where not far inside on the walls of a walking section we noticed "Perry Gribble" and "Firm Gribble 1911." Later that day we also finished the Firm Gribble Cave map at a length and depth of 1,720 and 33 feet.²

My curiosity about Firm Gribble was whetted and I determined to not only to identify that person but also Perry Gribble. With little "digging," I learned that Raleigh Firm (March 1, 1887-July 3, 1949), Oscar Newell (April 10, 1889-December 12, 1974), and Perry Andrew (June 7, 1894-May 10, 1986) were all sons of James Alexander (August 17, 1832-May 15, 1913) and much younger Sarah Ann (Cook) Gribble (March 19, 1860-April 15, 1926), who undoubtedly lived close to the caves and maybe even owned them. James A. Gribble was a Confederate

2.

veteran of Company D, 16th Tennessee Infantry, a son of John Gribble (February 8, 1806-September 17, 1894) and Susan Roberts (c. 1798-¹⁸³⁹), and grandson of Thomas (February, 1776-August 13, 1849) and Hannah Shanks (1778-August 3, 1868) Gribble. Thomas Gribble and family lived in Mecklenburg and Burke Counties, North Carolina, before moving to northeastern Warren County, Tennessee in 1814. There he built a log home, near which "A fine spring was located about 125 yards down the hill south of the house." There is no documentary or other evidence of who may have mined Firm Gribble and King Saltpeter Caves, but Thomas Gribble and his family or possibly his neighbors, the Roberts family, are candidates.³

Firm Gribble was a Rowland Station area farmer and he died "after an illness of four years." His wife was Virginia Douglas (September 21, 1907-December 25, 1990). Oscar N. Gribble married Dee Ida Stotts May 7, 1927, and they had a son and daughter. He was a World War I veteran, a longtime McMinnville water department employee, and later a Tullahoma resident. Perry A. Gribble was a McMinnville rural postman. He married Onia Glenn and they had two sons and four daughters.⁴

SOURCES

1. Diary of Marion O. Smith, Aug. 14, 1993; Tennessee Cave Survey, 2012.
2. Diary of Marion O. Smith, Feb. 28, Aug. 27, 2013.
3. Robert A. C. Hillis, ^(italics)1910 Warren County, Tennessee Census (n.p., 1988), 134; ^(italics)McMinnville Southern Standard, July 8, 1949, Dec. 16, 1974, May 12, 1986; Almetia Cunningham and Martha Holt, ^(italics)Warren County Cemetery Books (4 vols., Signal Mountain, Tenn., 1993-99), Bk 2:31; Bk 3:248; Bk 4:296; Thomas A. Hard, ^(italics)Campaigns and Battles of the Sixteenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteers (Nashville, 1885); Thomas G. Webb, "The Gribble Family of Warren County, Tennessee," ^(italics)WCGA Bulletin, Vol. 11, Nos. 1 & 2 (Spring-Summer, 2002), 4-9.
4. ^(italics)McMinnville Southern Standard, July 8, 1949, Dec. 16, 1974, May 12, 1986.

Signal Light Pit

By Tao Campbell NSS 59765



Hi, my name is Tao Campbell and on November 9, 2013 I did my first pit. That pit was Signal Light Pit. I rappelled and climbed it TWICE! Signal Light is right next to the train tracks and I also got train track screws, bolts and clips. I was there with Kelly, Jason, my Mom Rachel, my Dad Jim, Eric, Kaya, Dakota, Jamie, Theresa, and Mike.

The first time I descended the free hanging side of the pit (rope 4) with my Mom and then ascended up the same rope with Kelly next to me on rope 3. The second time I descended rope 1 with Kelly and then ascended the ledgy side of the pit on rope 2 with Jason ascending next to me on rope 1.



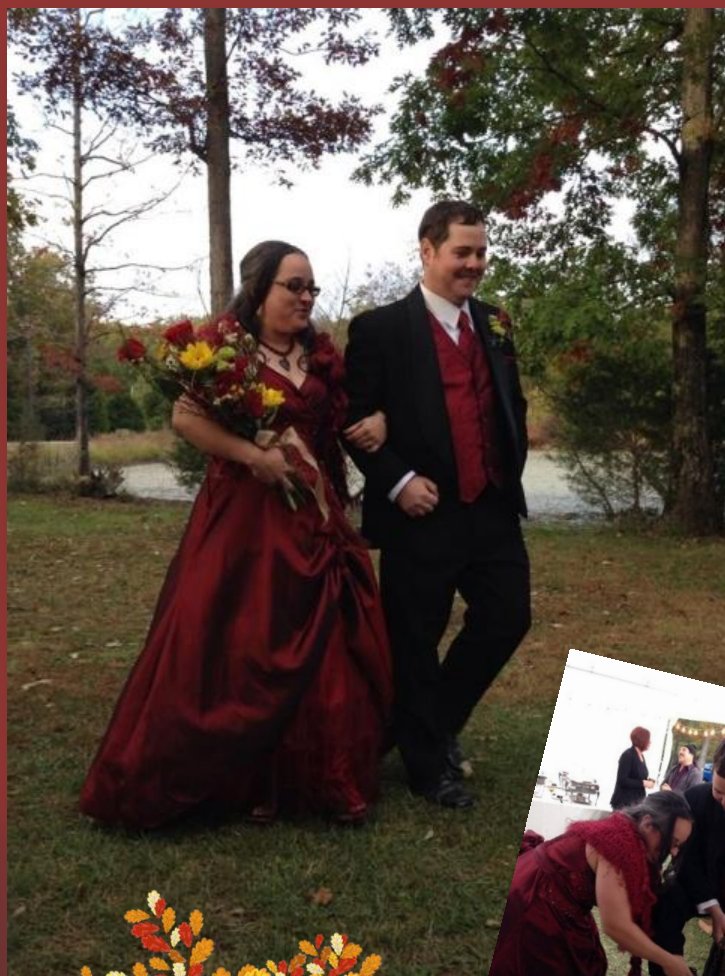
I learned from Eric that a train will come every 20 minutes! Did you know that? In Signal Light me, Mike, and Jason went into the cave and found part of a rail from the rail road. I found it on the slope at the bottom of the pit near the breakdown. We parked in the Big Daddy's parking lot and went across the street and up the mountain. After the trip we went to Anne and Blaine's house and they hosted the Sewanee Mountain Grotto meeting.

I hope you enjoyed my first trip report as much as I did my first pit!

The End



After four years of courtship, Jason Hardy & Kelly Smallwood finally tied the KNOT. Their wedding took place on October 26, 2013 at the place where they first met, Caver's Paradise...!





The SCCi Now Owns Run To The Mill Cave!

The SCCi is extremely pleased to announce our newest cave preserve, Run To The Mill. This cave is a TAG classic, with a deep pit, beautiful formation areas, miles of passage, and large borehole. The cave is over 15,000 feet long and 445 feet deep, with a 167-foot deep pit. It's a caver's cave. And it's one more cave that we can permanently remove from the TAG Closed Cave List.

Support This Purchase! Buy a Piece of a Cave Preserve! This is our newest purchase, and it cost \$200,000. We need your help to pay for it. You'll receive a thank-you gift of your choice. To provide ongoing support and help us fund other purchases of other amazing caves, please consider signing up as a Sustaining Member. Our sustainers give us the monthly income we need to pay for our caves and to purchase new caves. You may also make a general donation to support our work across the southeast. We are able to purchase caves we all love because of YOU!

We signed the closing paperwork transferring ownership of the property to the SCCi in early October, so we're still creating a management committee and defining access policies. We will post all of the information about how to visit the cave as soon as we can. In the meantime, to give you a better idea of why this cave is such a fantastic purchase for the SCCi and all of our members, here are just a few photos of the cave Buddy Lane provided. We look forward to seeing photos from all of you now that cavers can once again visit this wonderful cave.



www.scci.org



**My Heroes Have Always Been Cavers
(originally by Willie Nelson)
Rewritten by Ralph Powers &**

**I grew up dreamin' of being a caver
And lovin caver ways
Perusing a life of my low crawling heroes
I burned up my carbide plates
I've earned all those bruises
Of a modern day caver
Don't go on crawlin' too long
Just take your leads
From the survey's and line plots
And the words of a sad caver's song
My heroes have always been cavers
They still are it seems
Sadly in search of
And one step in back of
Their leads and their slow fading dreams
Cavers are special
With their own brand of misery
For surveying alone too long
The rope's too short, in the pit of a nightmare
Knowing well, that your best leads are gone
Picking up the gear, instead of my life (???)
I let the words of my youth fade away
Old worn out helmets and old worn out memories
With no one knowing just where the cave lay
My heroes have always been cavers
They still are it seems
Sadly in search of
And one step in back of
Their leads and their slow fading dreams
Sadly in search of
And one step in back of
Their leads and their slow fading dreams**

GAPING POT

Franklin County, Tennessee

TFR 118

Suunto, Fiberglass Tape,
& Leica Disto Survey By:

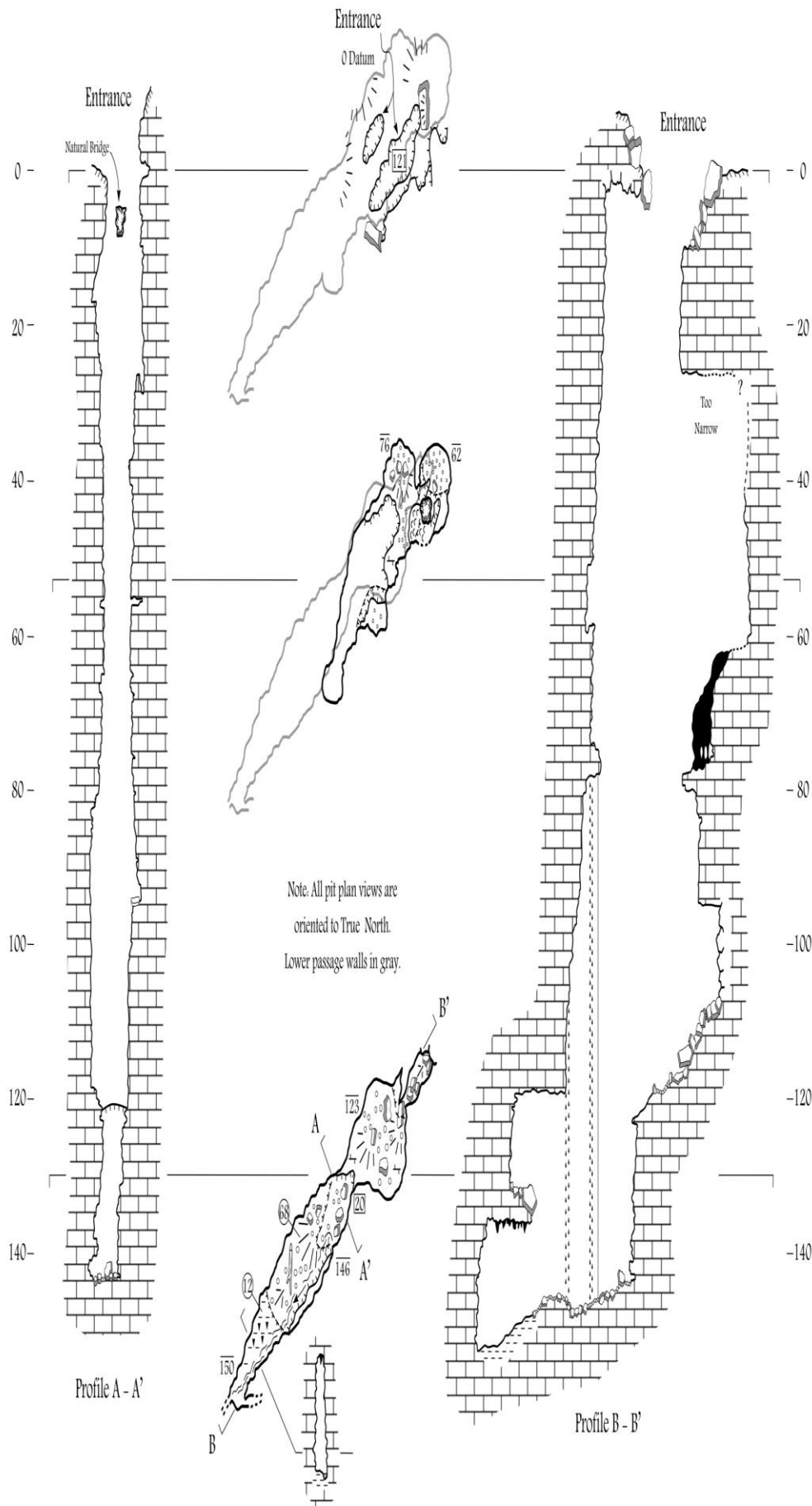
Clinton Barber

Ben Miller

September 1, 2013

Total Horizontal Length: 84.7 Feet (25.82 Meters)

Total Vertical Extent/Depth: 150.8 Feet (45.96 Meters)



Off the Beaten Path in Marion County, TN

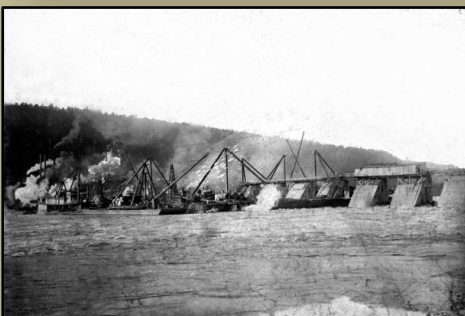
by Kelly Smallwood



"To remain ignorant of things that happened before you were born is to remain a child" ~ Cicero ~

History has always fascinated me and I am always on the lookout for places of interest in TAG that have a lot of it. There is something special to me about visiting a place that dates back hundreds of years. I love to feel the energy and imagining the way life used to be, much simpler times. This article features one of the oldest cemeteries in Marion County, which is located in Sweeden's Cove. If you've been caving in Marion County, you probably have heard of caves such as Raulston's Pit and Ellis Pit. These caves, along with others in the county, are named after early white settlers in the area. Marion County was established in 1817 from land acquired from the Cherokee Indians and was named after General Francis Marion, a Revolutionary War leader in South Carolina. The county seat is in Jasper, which is where I

call home. Not long after the county was established, in 1838 the Cherokees were forced from the TAG region via the Trail of Tears. During the Civil War, the presence of the railroad and the major turnpikes made it a place that Confederate and Federal armies passed through. The county has been notable for its coal and iron industries and is still home to the Lodge Cast Iron manufacturing company in South Pittsburg. Marion County also has seven Century Farms and the oldest is the Georgia Hoge Farm that dates back to 1808. A Century Farm is a farm that has been recognized as being continuously owned by a single family for 100 years or more!



Sweeten's Cove, also known as Sweeden's Cove on nineteenth century maps and documents, is an area of early settlement in the lower Sequatchie Valley. It was settled primarily by the Beene and Raulston families. Nathaniel Edgar Ellis purchased 231 acres in Sweeten's Cove in December 1912, which is adjacent to the historic Beene-Raulston Cemetery. He and his wife Mary Etta Ellis were forced to relocate from Ellisville, near Mullins Cove, after the Chattanooga and Tennessee River Electric Power Company constructed the Hales Bar Dam. The dam was one of the nation's first major dams to be constructed across a navigable channel and it flooded all the farmland in the area that Nathaniel's family had called home since 1828. After living in Sweeten's Cove and being early members of the Primitive Baptist Church, Nathaniel began to miss his old home along the Tennessee River. The house had not been flooded like the farmland so he sold the Sweeten's Cove Farm to one of

his five sons, Oscar Nathaniel Ellis in 1914. Eventually Nathaniel returned and purchased another farm adjacent to his former property. Nathaniel and his wife Mary Etta are both buried in the Bean Roulston Graveyard.



The Bean Roulston Graveyard is located seven miles back into Sweeten's Cove. Not only is it the resting place of many early settlers of Marion County such as the Ellis's, but it is also the resting place of 20 unknown Confederate Soldiers. A small Civil War battle, the first in the Sequatchie Valley, took place in the cove on June 4, 1862 between the troops of Union General James Negley and the cavalry of Col. John Adams. Another Civil War era landmark in the cove is the Primitive Baptist Church, which was built in 1850 and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also buried in the Bean Roulston Graveyard is Captain Robert Bean who was a Captain in the Indian Wars. It is said he was also a companion to Daniel Boone, a Tennessee Volunteer, a Hero of King's Mountain, and an Intrepid Pioneer Patriot. Note the rather large piece of limestone that is the headstone for his burial site!



Directions: From Hwy 72, head west onto Sweetens Cove Road. After seven miles, turn right onto Bean Roulston Road. Go one fifth of a mile and you will see the cemetery on the left. The Cemetery is surrounded by an old rock wall and it is one of the oldest cemeteries in Marion County.



Fenix TK 51

Jeff Cody



Fenix has just introduced one of its newest flashlights. The TK 51 allows the use of spot or flood or both spot and flood. The maximum output is listed at 1800 Lumen when using both at once. Flood is 900 Lumen and spot is also 900 lumen on its max setting. Each has 4 output settings and also features an 1800 lumen strobe. This light uses Cree XM-L 2 LEDs. Lifespan for these LEDs are 50,000 hours. The light is approximately 7.5 inches long and around 2 inches in diameter in the tube and slightly larger at the head. Weight is listed at 430 grams without batteries. This light can operate off several battery types. Fenix recommends using their ARB-L2 18650, other 18650 can be used. This light can also operate off 2, 4 or 6 CR 123 Lithium and also can operate off 16340 3.7 V and 16340 3.2 V. This light can operate off 1, 2 or 3 18650 Lithium Ion. 3 buttons control the light, one for spot another for flood and a third power button. If you press and hold spot or flood button for one second it will activate the 1800 Lumen strobe until either button is released. Press and hold the power button for one second for instant 1800 lumen spot and flood until the power button is released. This light will remember the last brightness level and will go to that level the next time the light is on. When batteries run down the light will switch down to reduce output level until batteries are replaced or re charged. This light also has overheat protection when in the turbo mode to where it will drop to high when it detects high temperature and will stay at that mode until temperature drops to a safe level.

Caution should be used when using 18650 Lithium Ion batteries. When using this or any device that uses multiple 18650 it is important to use matching batteries that are all in the same state of charge. Fenix recommends the ARB-L2 or similar protected batteries with circuit protection that can reduce the risk of combustion. Smart chargers are recommended to charge Lithium Ion. Fenix recommends 3.2 Volt 18650 or 3.2 volt 16340. 3.7 volt batteries can be used but they suggest using with caution and understanding risks associated with the use of unprotected cells. All output listings claimed by Fenix are using their ARB-L2 18650 battery. The use of other batteries and use in certain extreme environments can affect output and run times. The Fenix warranty replaces products within 15 days of purchase and repair products free of charge within 24 months of purchase and after 24 months they will charge for replacement parts if the light is used within warranty parameters.

The specs for this light are: each LED has a turbo setting at 900 Lumen, a high setting at 400, a mid at 150 and a low at 10. Strobe is 1800 Lumen. Listed run times are between three and one half hours on the high with three 18650s to 420 hours on the low. If both LEDs are used at once then cut those run times in half. The beam distance is listed at 425 meters. Impact resistance is a drop of 1 meter and this light is IPX 8 rated meaning that it has been tested for submersion in 2 meters of water for 30 minutes. The light is constructed of aircraft grade aluminum and is anodized with an anti-abrasive finish. It features a toughened ultra-clear glass lens with anti-reflective coating. Reverse polarity protection guards from improper battery installation. You simply unscrew the head to open up the light and the battery case drops out. The light comes with a lanyard and an extra O ring. If this light is taken into a cave environment I would suggest checking and cleaning the O ring of any grit on a regular basis to ensure the waterproof rating. Fenix also recommends removing batteries for long term storage.

I received my TK 51 in early November as I was selected to be part of the Fenix global test campaign for this light. In fact mine has "Global Testing Campaign" stamped on the side of it. The first thing I noticed was how solid this felt in my hands. I was not too surprised of this as I own other Fenix hand held lights that have the similar feel. I loaded mine with 3 Panasonic 3400 18650 batteries. I ran through the options and was very impressed. The throw on the spot was impressive. The controls were easy to use. I had to compare this to my El Speleo 2000 cave specific headlamp as that is the only thing I own of similar output as The TK 51. I have to say at this point that El Speleo is a purpose built lamp made with certain optics specific to what the manufacturer feels is the need of a caver. The TK 51 has a deeper and larger reflector that I suspect helps with the throw of the spot. I took photos of this comparison at night in my backyard. The throw of The TK 51 was much further and a brighter white pin point hot spot compared to the wide angle spot on the 1000 Lumen El Speleo. Like the

TK 51, the El Speleo runs off 3 18650 Lithium Ion batteries. The El did a better job of lighting up the area between myself and where the lights were pointed when doing the spot comparisons , this can be a plus when negotiating your way in a cave environment. The Fenix did look much brighter because the output is focused to a narrow area compared to a wider angle spot. Personally, it would be nice to have both types of spot on one cave lamp but I understand that may not be possible to have two spots and a flood and still keep the size manageable. The wide spot on The El will light up the area of a good size underground room without any of the “tunnel vision” you can get with a narrow spot but the narrow spot will light a specific object far away much better. It kind of depends on the type of caving you do and what your preferred optic is. The TK 51 may be a bit large to carry in a cave pack unless you are in a specific situation like a deep pit or very large passage.

The flood comparison I feel was advantage El Speleo. The TK 51 produced a more circular type light where The El Speleo lit up everything all around you including your feet without having to look down at your feet. I had to point the TK 51 down toward my feet a bit and not straight out to get what I feel is a comfortable amount of light at my feet. This comparison illustrates what cave specific optics are. I find that when inside a cave moving over breakdown piles that it is an advantage to see around your feet well when pointing the light forward. You are not pointing the light forward then down many times. You can move more efficiently keeping your lamp pointing forward the whole time. I have to note that many Fenix products are multipurpose sport lights and are not designed for the specific purpose of caving. Also I would like to point out that the TK 51 will cost around 150.00 US Dollars and The El Speleo cost a bit over 400 US Dollars so from that standpoint my comparison may be apples to oranges comparison. With the understanding of what the TK 51 is designed for I have to say I am impressed with it even though as a caver I have a bias for cave specific optics. The idea of a hand held light with dual optics impresses me. I also compared the spot on The TK 51 to the spot on my Fenix 4AA 520 Lumen LD 41. Not surprised that TK 51 was brighter but I am impressed with the output on The LD 41 for a light that runs off 4 AA s. All in all the TK 51 is a very impressive light and has its purpose, even in a cave.

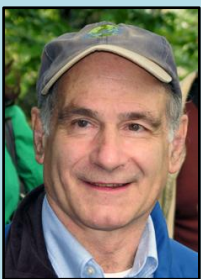
Features

- Utilizes two Cree XM-L2 (U2) LEDs with a lifespan of 50,000 hours
- Uses three 18650 rechargeable Li-ion batteries
- 188mm (length) x 48mm (diameter)
- 430 gram weight (excluding battery)
- Digitally regulated output with low voltage indicator
- Reverse polarity protection guards against improper battery installation
- Three button interface for fast and convenient operation
- Made of durable aircraft grade aluminum
- Premium type III hard anodized anti-abrasive finish
- Toughened ultra-clear glass lens with anti-reflective coating



LUMINARY **TALKS**

The National Speleological Society is pleased to present it's next collection of video presentations for the "Luminary Series" — which features pioneering cave explorers, karst scientists, and other long-time NSS members. These talks are designed to give young and old cavers alike the opportunity to learn from some of the true superstars in our Society. This program is the brainchild of AVP Geary Schindel and Dave Hughes; the videos are produced by Dave Socky and Webmaster Alex Sproul. To view the videos go to <http://caves.org/luminaries/index.shtml>.

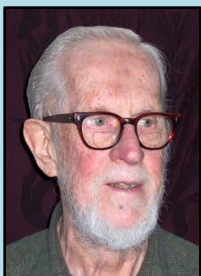


Art Palmer Dr. Palmer is one of the most famous cave scientists who has ever lived—but he remains friendly, courteous, and kind. Art is an extremely charismatic speleologist and he is truly a terrifically great guy. Art completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University in 1969, and subsequently pursued a productive and distinguished career at the State University of New York at Oneonta. In addition, he has held adjunct professorships at both Mississippi State University and at Western Kentucky University. Art has served on the editorial staff of many prestigious scientific journals—including those published in Britain, China, France, Hungary, Slovenia, and the United States. A brilliant writer himself, Art has authored numerous journal articles, various booklets, and several full-length books. His 2007 book entitled *Cave Geology* is a beautifully produced and extremely popular text.



Roger Brucker Roger W. Brucker first went to Mammoth Cave when he was only 8 years of age and thus began a lifelong love affair with that region of Kentucky. Along the way, Roger would establish relationships with such legends as Jim Dyer and Bill Austin. And, he would help to found the Cave Research Foundation—an organization that developed appropriate and repeatable approaches to working with the National Park Service. Among many other skills, Roger is a prolific author who has penned many books about caves and caving. Many people's favorite is the classic tome about the 1954 Collins Crystal Cave (C3) Expedition entitled *The Caves Beyond*. A few other fabulous books that Roger has co-authored include

The Longest Cave, a comprehensive story devoted to the Mammoth-Flint Ridge Cave System; *Beyond Mammoth Cave* detailing the saga of Roppel Cave and its connection to Mammoth; and *Trapped!*—an exciting tale about Floyd Collins. Roger also taught the "Speleology" course at Western Kentucky University for a quarter-century.



Rane Curl In 1952, while laboring away in the Charleston, WV area on graduate work in chemical engineering at MIT, and dating a local lady, Rane had occasion to meet her brother—none other than the legendary WV caver John "Bud" Rutherford. Rane began caving with Rutherford and a teammate named Bob Handley. After returning to school in Cambridge, MA, Rane continued pursuing his new interest in caves with members of the Boston Grotto. After graduating in 1955, he moved to the bay area of California and—along with Bill Halliday, George Moore, and Howard Shugart—formed the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the NSS. In 1960, Rane and two co-authors penned the "NSS Policy for Cave

Conservation." The next winter, he attended the 3rd ICS in Vienna, and then accepted a research appointment in London. While overseas, Rane embarked on a 12,000 kilometer motorcycle tour of Europe. Applying a chemical engineer's perspective to speleology, Dr. Curl has published on topics such as a statistical theory of cave entrance evolution; the relationship between cave scallop geometry and water flow velocity; the aragonite-calcite problem; and speleothem dating and growth. Among many other things, Rane chaired the 8th ICS, edited the first 4 issues of *American Caving Accidents*, and served as President of the NSS.

Chattanooga – Hamilton County Rescue Service



Dear Sewanee Mountain Grotto Members,

I am writing to personally thank the Sewanee Grotto and its members for your generous donation to the Chattanooga – Hamilton County Rescue Service. Your \$500 donation was designated for the purchase of gear specific to the needs of the Cave/Cliff/Technical Unit. Our group has been extraordinarily busy in 2013, in regards to cave related incidents and this donation helped us to procure much needed equipment. The year 2013 has been the year of the cave rescue in TAG, with already five rescues in the first five months of the year. Chattanooga – Hamilton County Rescue has been involved in each and emergency response to these accidents drive up the repair and replacement cost on equipment, vehicles and consumable items.

CHCRS is a 501c3, non-profit organization that relies heavily on the generosity of organizations and individuals to fund our operations. We value our relationship with the organized caving community and appreciate the continued support. CHCRS has 38 dedicated volunteers who specialize in cave rescue. These volunteers dedicate hundreds of hours each year in training for the next call. Supporting these volunteers is your acknowledgement of the importance of professional cave rescuers to organized caving in the Southeastern US.

Your contribution will help CHCRS continue our mission to provide a professional level of service to all those who find themselves in need of rescue, wherever they may find themselves. Thank you.

Brad Tipton
Captain
Cave/Cliff/Technical Unit

Buddy Lane
Assistant Chief
Technical Services



#WINFROMWITHIN