

The Usual Suspects by A. James Kramer

I set out from the York Grotto camp on a mission to find and document the weird, but I'm distracted by neighbor Darrel on the other side of the lane. I navigate through the "minefield" signs to his hooch, which is a bit threadbare. "Yeah," he says, "we've been here for thirty years." He reminds me of the high water a few years ago when he canoed through the camp, and we discuss the weather and the micro-geography of tenting on the highest spots of a flood plane. We observe that the crawdads have prospered in the face of drainage engineering and in spite of the multiple fluids that have found their way into their holes. They seem bigger to Darrel, who speculates about genetic mutation. Star Eagle and Joe come by. It's Joe's first time, so we tell lies as he tries to not look apprehensive.

Focused on my quest, I stroll past Scum Ridge and happen upon Naked Jim. He's lounging unclothed in the shade of his camper, eating a tin of sardines. We discuss the sardines of Portugal and the proliferation of camper vehicles at OTR. Jim had heart surgery in the spring, but he's still here maintaining the tool room and helping out at the sauna. "I'm 82," he says, "but I feel like I'm 62." I leave Jim and cross a footbridge that takes me past the Buzz City hooch, where Ben and Ralph pause in their labors to share a Yukon Jack salute, which does us all some good. At the Parkersburg Area Grotto I notice a BBQ smoker and find out that they have a pig to roast, and some venison quarters if they're not freezer burned. Kenny isn't sure about the deer meat, or if they'll be feeding the band. We observe that numerous folks from Ozark Nation and the Dead Puppies have gone to Burning Man this year, and are glad that it ain't us. Too dry. I see Darrel and Sue again, and am treated to a moonshine concoction called apple pie, which is not bad after the Yukon Jack. Back at York Grotto, Lee asks me if I found any weirdness. I tell him no, just a normal morning walk through OTR.

Gong Show

The OTR Gong Show will be on Friday evening at 8:00 PM before the band takes the stage. Acts can be of any type, singing, comedy, magic, musical, etc. Right now, there are only 6 slots available for inclusion in the Gong Show. Prizes will be awarded for both Solo and Group categories. On-line signups have closed. If you would like to be included as a performer either as a group or solo act, please make sure that you find Shack, OTR Chairman, to get signed up for your moment in the spotlight. Just find any Staff Member with a radio and they will be able to locate Shack so you can get signed up.

OTR Military Tribute



Please make sure to attend the OTR Military Tribute on Saturday night in the Main Pavilion at 9:30PM. This will be a very special time when we can celebrate and thank the OTR attendees that have served in the military. This will be a wonderful opportunity to recognize our veterans / active military personnel as they receive a small token of gratitude and our show of appreciation for the sacrifices that they endured.

Incident of Concern

Members,

Recently there was an incident regarding ownership of certain Sauna properties.

During the May work weekend, a meeting was held with the current Sauna leadership, TRA leadership and the interested party present. All parties agreed to meet during the July work weekend to resolve all concerns.

Without prior notification to TRA or the current Sauna leadership, the member in question removed these sauna items during the June work weekend.

This action violated the aforementioned agreement. The present situation is difficult for all parties involved, but TRA and the current Sauna leadership will continue to work on the resolution of this incident which is a concern to all.

WOTR and the Great White Dome by A. James Kramer

Andy and Alex "grew up" in the shade of the legendary White House. In 2002 they created WOTR radio. Ten years ago Larry, another station guy, told Coot and Holler: "We're here. We play what you want to hear." And they're better than ever at building a WOTR multi-sensory experience. This year there's a huge disco ball and "a really big PA to drown out disco songs." You may prefer the kegs, the glow-in-the-dark tetherball or the little train that delivers cocktails, but don't miss Mick's original, also-legendary, White House squeeze box. A few years ago they connected with Mick, who had the thing stored. It was in lousy shape, but Andy and Alex were delighted. By the time they could pick it up, Mick had it completely refurbished. It's there; it works, and it's "available for squeezing to all of OTR."

Connected to WOTR by the radiant Walk of Shame is Chris Long's symbiotic great white dome, a party-side landmark. For ten years he's been building domes, and parties have come. "I don't know. I just put it up and people bring the party." He helps with good sounds, great lights, an elevated dance platform, mics and instrument inputs, as well as a wide-open party vibe. On Saturday evening the dome party will move to the big bash in the sauna area, but Sunday's plans include an "awesome, legit Studio 54 mix list. . . no BeeGees." From 11 to dawn is a marathon concert by solo performer Brandt Dunn. Chris swears he's crazy good at doing Prince, Bowie, The Who. Enter from Psycho Path and leave by the Walk of Shame.

"We try to fly under the radar," says Chris.

"Of course," says Andy, "everything is subject to change."

Event Tent Schedule Updates:

Add: Sat. 10 am Speleo Art Walk
Canceled: 2:30 pm Presentation
Add: Sun: 4:30 pm Cave Rescue Presentation

Coots and Roots

We're starting a new OTR grotto -
DISCO Society of Underground
Cavers Karstologists
and Speleologists



Wine and Paint with Cheryl

Stop by the event tent at 11 am or at 2 pm for an awesome paint class. Think you have no talent for art? Cheryl thinks otherwise. Adult participants will leave with a finished painting, featuring bats, of which they will be proud. This was a sell out, standing room only event last year. As a space available class, you best go by early. Class fee of \$35 includes the wine and all supplies.

What's up? *by Joel Jacobs*

Polaris, Ursa Minor Alpha, also called The Pole Star and The North Star, the brightest star in the constellation we call The Little Dipper. It is one of the most famous of all the stars in the sky, aiding mariners and travelers for centuries, even though it is the 49th in brightness. It is less than one degree from true north and getting closer until the year 2102 when it will be spot on. This is caused by the slow change in the Earth's axis in space not by any movement of the stars. It is a more accurate guide to true north than the compass and can be found at the tip of the little bear's handle.

Enormous private collection of pre-1990 caving, convention and OTR shirts. All available at Speleobooks in the sale tent.

Vote for Sarah Richards! Sarah will make a fabulous TRA Trustee!

ROOTS & TOOTS meet & greet gathering today, Friday, 1PM, COOTER'S. Come toast our newest TOOT – Patty Taylor. Woo Wooooo!

Renzy of Loyalhanna is collecting single-use plastics for an art project. Bring them to the pumpkin. Look for the white trash bag if she's not there.

Missing picnic table – RIP JIM COLLINS – please return to camp site by Kiddie Koral – Nigel Willis.

Renzy will be telling fortunes by “throwing sticks” in the dome from 2 – 4PM. She asks for donations to the sauna fund in return.

The Memorial Garden, Site Beautification & Gardening Krewe kindly request that well intentioned members with weed whackers and other trimmers check with the gardeners before cutting. When in doubt, or not absolutely sure, don't cut, weed whack, or mow it until verifying with the gardeners. Thank you.

Grotto Volunteer Participation Contest - See Susi Weston or Meredith Hall Weberg at the BATS Camp for information.

The York Grotto will be celebrating its 60th

anniversary by sponsoring the Fall MAR in Newville, PA September 20–22. Go to yorkgrotto.org for more information.

Second generation awesome Dawson. Making the obstacle course come alive once more! We love you, Sterling, for jumping in and taking charge, G.R.O.D.Y G

OTR Merch tent hours: Friday, 3-5 pm in front of the Chairman's trailer, across the road from the ice cream stand. rotto.

If someone picked up a blue cane at the yard sale last OTR, p return it to 7 Valley's. Thank You. The owner is missing it.

Eastern Region NCRC meeting 10am Sunday at the Dome. All welcome. Bring your own chair.

Want to be a Camp Master? Come talk with John in BATS! Dutch Star RV is our base for the week.

Don't forget to volunteer! Join the fun of volunteering and try for a prize in the Grotto Volunteer participation Contest.

Bubbles Fun Run. 12PM Saturday. Meet at pavilion, hard start 12:15.

Please take your camp trash to the dumpsters.

A Fang prediction come true!!! Congrats to Jessica & John on their impending new arrival.

Venus Fly Trap Cave *by Raphael The Root*

On a crisp clear winter day, ideal for hiking, Tom and his son Jerry went ridge walking ISO of an yet undiscovered cave on Copperhead Ridge. They left a note on their truck, about where they were heading and purpose. It was one of those January days with a brilliant blue sky and temps in the 40s. They carried a 100' rope, helmets and lights in case they found a potential hole in the ground. After about an hour, they sat down for lunch at noon, and noticed steam coming out of the ground nearby.

It was definitely a cave entrance with an odd rock face, resembling a set of jaws. A tree was close-by, with a rope tied around it leading to the cave, but cut off at the entrance. It looked like it had been there a few years.

Tom commented, “Guess we aren't the first ones here”. He couldn't tell how deep the cave was, hoping the 100' rope was long enough. They rigged the drop, with Tom descending first. “Off rope, he hollered back, come on down, I guess its about a 60' pit, and dry”. Jerry then followed down.

It wasn't much of a cave, with just two short crawl passages. Then they found the remains. Two skeletons and cave gear, looks like they have been there for awhile, since there was no flesh on the bones. In a cave pack was a notebook, with some disturbing news. Also nearby was their cut rope. In the book was an account, dated 10 years prior. It was about a week long, detailing that their rope was cut, and they were trapped in the cave, eventually they perished of dehydration and starvation, not knowing how the rope was cut. Terrified they rushed to the bottom of the pit, as the sky above got darker, they heard a grinding sound, and their rope came tumbling down.

Pieces of the Puzzle *by Joel Jacobs*

Larry stringing rope lights to illuminate a path. Darrell, on a lift, hanging decorations from the pavilion ceiling. The folks waiting at the Aid Station for you to buy ice @ \$2.00 a bag. A bekilted Doc, always ebullient. A stern and tested krewe at the gate around Thursday noon. Numerous dedicated traffic controllers. The helpful and positive volunteers at registration. Expectant vendors displaying their wares. All those little vehicles being piloted around camp by workers on missions. Mike, Paul and other Dead Puppies erecting the themed bonfire. The intrepid folks who clean the showers.

OTR thrives because good people work together to complete the puzzle.

More pieces later . . .

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