

THE
MADISON UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROTTO
QUARTERLY JOURNAL



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STATE OF THE GROTTO ADDRESS

Well, I'm Prez now for awhile and I can't wait to do lots of things. So far we've put some order into the meetings, passed a revised constitution, come out with this second publication and done a lot of caving. We now have stringent Membership Requirements (Not really that bad!). I suppose you could say Robins Rift is a project of ours although I don't know what Ed Ricketts would say to that! Most of my biggest plans have been completed except for training sessions which will occur this fall. I would like to see us do some more caving so everyone get your gear together and I'll see you underground!

Mike Artz NSS 19309 MUSG
president 1981

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HOW TO GET WET IN ONE EASY LESSON:
GO TO LOCKRIDGE'S AQUA!

As most everyone knows, the MUSG held it's fourth annual Spring Fling April 3-5 at the campground located near Marshall's Cave and Lockridge's Aqua in Highland County, Virginia. It was a weekend of partying and intense caving trips. Friday night saw a 2 1/2 hour trip of thirteen people into Marshall's Cave and Saturday an excavation crew went to Robin's Rift and 14 people, including beginners went to Breathing on a long, 5 hour trip. But to me, the most exciting trip was the 45 minute excursion to Lockridge's Aqua.

For many years I had been hearing that Lockridge's Aqua a nice sized cave with a large stream and a submerged entrance and I had always wanted to see the cave (almost as much as I want to go to Russia and kiss the Krenlin's feet!). Ha, fellow cavers, at one time I too was chicken to explore tight passages and to even think of dangling a little toe in cold cave water let alone immerse my whole body, well, anybody who did that got the Purple Padge of Courage! But now being the masochist I am, I truly was interested in looking at least past the entrance room! The only problem was—nobody I knew from the Spring Fling had ever been in the cave. I suppose the entrance turns away many "hard core" cavers!

One only has to look at the stream resurging from Lockridge's Aqua (also known as Refrigerator Springs) to realize that to even think of entering this cave, one must get wet, and upon observing the entrance, all fears are confirmed! There are two entrances, one completely submerged and carrying all of the stream and the other a small horizontal tube about two to three feet in diameter with about 12 to 14 inches of air space. This second entrance is the easiest one to enter, obviously, but it is small and all the air movement in the cave is channeled through this hole so that the water that partially submerges the passage has small ripples in it. One look at this and the motivation fator needed to enter greatly increases! Also, feeling the cold blasts of air hitting you as you bend down to look for a possible beach makes you realize why the cave is also known as Refrigerator Springs (this we discovered, wasn't the only reason as we submerged our bodies in that 40° (?) water)! Now upon reading how grim and forbidding this cave is (in my opinion), perhaps you should know why we decided to do it.

Upon returning from Robbin's Rift, Bruce Beard, Garrie Rouse (VPI), and myself felt that Spring Fling wouldn't be complete or for that matter our consciences wouldn't be satisfied without one more outrageous caving trip. We somehow decided upon Lockeridge's Aqua or rather somebody, somehow, interpreted our mumblings (we all had our feet in our mouth) Now, upon a committal by word of mouth, we had to explore the cave.

As we neared the entrance, up popped Eric Anderson and Bill Shipman, two other VPI cavers who gave moral support as they watched us. Bruce was the first brave soul of the three of us to prove his manhood. After watching him trying to catch his breath upon submerging his chest, we all knew it wouldn't be long before he returned. And it wasn't! After his hasty return he mentioned that he had been moving along a ledge and after the ceiling rose, the ledge dropped, but the bottom of the lake inside the entrance wasn't visible and nor could he feel it. This, with the fact that he had had trouble adjusting to the water temperature caused his retreat.

Being the most experienced person present, I felt it my responsibility to attempt this extraordinary feat. I have always felt that it is better to become use to cold water before completely submerging your body, so this was the approach I used. Upon becoming acclimated I entered the cave, reached the same point as Bruce had but about 20 feet away I noticed a beach and I clambered upon some protruding ledges with every part of my body out of the water except my feet. I waited here till Garrie joined me. It appeared he had the same problem as Bruce, but upon seeing another person, he became relieved and his breathing slowed down. Seeing as how there was only room enough for one person on the ledge I had been setting on, I waded through chest-deep water to the beach and waited for Garrie to join me. There we left to explore after deciding upon a return time.

After reaching the beach we followed it till the room opened up to a large trunk passage five meters high by five meters wide. To our surprise, the stream was much smaller now not having a depression to accumulate in. This was easy walking passage with the stream embedded in the middle of the passage. All around were signs that a good rainstorm could flood the cave as there was much washed in debris clinging to the walls. We ignored this fact as there were few clouds in the sky when we entered.

Basically we stayed in the main stream passage through most of the cave. At two places we had to wade through chest deep water to continue and we always stopped and considered the possibilities of stepping into water over our heads. Fortunately this was not the case. At one point we left the main stream to follow a section of the cave which obviously use to carry the main stream but now only carries the overflow during floods. The stream had cut through solid rock and had left no deposits on the floor and the rock was beautifully sculptured and ca v e d out. After a few hundred feet we left the main passage to explore a side passage and soon decided it was time to return. Since there were arrows pointing in the general direction of out we decided to follow the passage, hopefully reconnecting with the main stream passage. Our suspicions were confirmed when we emerged into a section of the cave below the two places where the water was chest deep, and above the sculptured area. This was a relief as we didn't particularly feel like traversing these

areas again. I noticed that Garrie was becoming slightly cold so we kept moving till we reached the entrance. It cannot be described what a relief it was to hear Bruce's voice on the other side of the entrance and we were happy to discover the water wasn't nearly as cold going back through. Because Garrie was relatively cold and because this was his first experience with water, we let him go through first and then I followed. The warm Spring air was enjoyable as it hit me when I exited and I knew then that I would be back to Lockridge Aqua to see whatever is left to see. Realizing that the stream happens to be one of the main resurgences of the Butler Cave Sinking Creek System, I'm sure that Lockridge's Aqua has been thoroughly explored and I also realize that the terminal upstream sump has been dove for over 100 yeads with no air passage in sight. One should assume that all leads have been pushed, but just for the sake of becoming adjusted to stream passage where you must get wet in order to explore, I recommend Lockridge's Aqua for the person who wants to get a little experience. I know it was one for Bruce, Garrie, and myself!

- Mike Artz

EDITOR'S NOTE: A return trip was organized on Memorial Day Weekend and with the aid of wetsuits, Bob Carts, Stan Carts, Dave Thorpe, Ed Ricketts, Jaime Reep, Doug Molineaux, Bob Ebaugh, and Mike Artz explored the cave. As there were only four wetsuits to go around there were two separate trips. Both groups pushed the cave to the terminal sump which was twice as far back as the point where Mike and Garrie turned back. Also it should be mentioned that everybody on these return trips should be given the lable of "hard-core" as the entrance had only two inches of air space. Check elsewhere in this issue for another trip report on Lockridge's Aqua by Jaime Reep!



SEEMS APPROPRIATE BECAUSE OF IT'S BEING THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "WHY DO YOU GO CAVING?"



CAVING ACTIVITY APRIL 1981 to June 14, 1981

<u>Cave</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
3D Maze	March 27	Brian, Greg, Bonnie. Two new cavers, three hours.
Glade	March 28	Paul, Dwight, Bruce, Dana. Editor: 3 guys and 1 girl— never know what took them five hours. Five hours!
Chimney Rocks	April 2	Mike Artz, Bob Carts. 5.4 route with 5.5 move! Didn't make the pinnacle
Seneca Rocks	March 28 - 29	Bob Carts, Mike Balenger, Skip ? Blaise Barry, Kelly Smith, Debbie ?, Eddie Begoon, Chris ?

SPRING FLING	April 3 - 5	MUSGer's and VPier's, and PSCer's
Marshall's	April 3	13 MUSGer's. Nice cave with lotsa formations, even complete with a stream. 3 1/2 hours.
Breathing	April 4	14 MUSGer's. Found 1st water-fall. 5 1/2 hours.
Lockridge Aqua	April 4	Mike Artz, Bruce Beard, Garrie Rouse. Cold as shit! Wet too. 45 minutes.
Robin's Rift	April 4	Mike Artz, Bob Carts, Bruce Beard, Gary Rodgers, Eric Anderson, Garrie Rouse, Bill Shipman. Lots of digging to be done.
Chimney Rocks	April 9	Mike Artz, Bob Carts, Mike Balenger. Made the pinnacle.
Seneca Rocks	April 11 - 12	Mike Balenger, Bob Carts, Gary Rodgers, Patti Barnes, Rich Whittington.
Trout	April 11	Mike Artz Bruce Beard, Elizabeth Connor. Dug through 25 feet of Virgin cave. Blowin' air. Three and 1/2 hour trip.
Sinnit-Thorn Mt.	April 11	Mike Artz, Bruce Beard, Elizabeth Connor. Thorn Mountain is now gated! Explored above water-fall. Saw lotsa cave on a 6 hour trip but didn't see it all.

Glade	April 14	Tommy Roller and Lenny Etchc.
Hone Quarry	April 18	Bob Carts, Mike Artz, Mike Harris, Keith ? All of us did the Monkey and Mike A. lead an aid overhang.
Newberry-Bane's	April 25	Bob Carts, Mike Artz, Eric Anderson, Bill Shipman, Richard Brubaker, Fred Holmes, Roseann Normandy. Did connection trip through Dusty Crawls on 5 hour trip. Exited via Banes (2 of us) Bill's Rappel, and Devils Staircase.
New River Cave	April 25	Bob Ebaugh, Blaise Barry. Neat cave. 3 1/2 hour trip above waterfall.
Clover Hollow	April 25	Jaime Reep, Mike Reep, Ed Gerow Cris Paulson, Roberta Swicegood and others. Six hours.
Fools Face	April 26	Bob Carts, Mike Artz and other MUSGer's. Good solid rock.
Un-named caves in Broadway	May 2	Jaime Reep, Paul Clifford, Tommy Roller. Two small caves. It was very interesting exploring the second one!
Spring Hollow	May 9	Mike Artz, Bob Carts, Mike Balenger, Eric Anderson, Blaise Barry. Five hours with lots of wet crawling, wet waterfall drop on etriers tied together. Yuk cave!
Newberry	May 10	Bob Carts, Eric Anderson, Mike Artz. Finished 40' lead climb and found 600 feet of virgin passage on six hour trip.
Buddy Penley's	May 10	Blaise Barry. Fooled around entrance passages and explored lots of winding passages. 1 hr.
Robin's Rift	May 23	Host of MUSGer's, PSC'ers, DCGer's. Turned Robin's Rift into Fort Apache. Moved the big rock and tons of dirt. Maybe next time!

Lockridge's Aqua	May 23	Bob Carts, Dave Thorpe, and Jaime Reep on a three hour trip. Wetsuits helped alot! Explored the entire cave.
Lockridge's Aqua	May 23	Stan Carts, Mike Artz, Ed Ricketts, Doug Holineaux, Bob Ebaugh on a three hour trip!
Robins Rift	May 24 - 25	More digging with the same crew as on the 23rd.
Seneca Rocks	May 25	Bob Carts, Dave Thorpe.
Key Cave	May 28	Bob Carts, and Dave Thorpe on a two hour trip.
Hellhole	May 29	Bob Carts and Dave Thorpe dropped entrance on a 1 hour trip.
Harper's	May 29	Bob Carts and Dave Thorpe. Two hour trip.
Seneca Rocks	May 29	Bob Carts and Dave Thorpe. Dave took his first fall (10 ft)
Buzzard's Roost	May 30	Mike Artz and Walter Lundblad checked rocks on Massanutten Mt. near Waterlick. Looks good with lots of potential cracks.
Pugh's Run Quarry	May 30	Mike Artz and Walter Lundblad top roped on limestone. Fairly solid rock.
Seneca Rocks	June 4	Mike Artz and Walter Lundblad did Skyline Traverse and LSD.
Church Rocks	June 4	Mike Artz and Walter Lundblad did some good overhangs. My new shoes work like a charm.
Chimney Rocks	June 7	Mike Artz and Paul Clifford, and Bear! Led Groin Grip and top-roped BM and hiked around the rocks.
Seneca Rocks	June 13	Bob Carts and Mike Balenger on a new rope and some good routes!

Mike Artz, Bob Carts, Mike Balenger and loads of PSCers finally dug the cave open! On a two hour trip Dick Sanford, Miles Drake, Mike Duncan and Mike Artz began the survey of the Cathedral Spring Cave System. We surveyed the entrance room down to A6 for 13 stations, explored for a second entrance and exited. Later that afternoon Bob Carts, Mike Artz, Ed Ricketts, and Dick Sanford reentered to explore and survey a crawl that might be excavated for a second entrance. We set 12 more stations for a total of 25. Found 90 foot virgin pit. Came back to entrance and Bob exited. Entrance collapsed and rescue ensued with Ed, Mike and Dick trapped. We were soon dug out or I wouldn't be writing this!

MARSHALL'S TRIP

a At or near 9 p.m. on April 3, 1981, Mike Artz, Mike Balinger, Jaime Reep, Gary Rodgers, Paul Clifford, Tommy Roller, Lenny Etcho, Mike Reep, Cris Paulson, and five others whom names I cannot recall, and myself, Bruce Beard, entered Marshall's Cave en mass for a quick tourist trip to kick off the Madison University Student Grotto's Spring Fling Caving Weekend.

Jaime, Gary, Mike, and Bruce moved quickly to the back to avoid the rush. Once there, we explored a half a dozen main leads. Three of them involved climbs and died out; the other three funneled into stream crawls and we wimped out. Vowing to gather our wool clothing and harden our reserve for a return trip, we quickly exited after only a three hour trip. Two memorable moments of the trip included rookie caver Patti soaking when she slipped and fell to her chest in the stream while traversing over it and the unsavory and foul smelling Memento some nerd had left inexcusably in the main passage on a previous trip. Other than that, though, it was a good trip and a fine beginning to an outstanding weekend.

- Bruce Beard

CLIMBING FOR FUN & TERROR:
A CAVER'S IMPRESSION OF ROCK-CLIMBING

It all started in Devil's Hole Cave in our very own Rockingham County. Several of us rappelled into the 80 foot entrance pit. Having forgotten my helmet, light, coveralls, and vertical gear, I felt compelled to stay near the entrance pit where at least some light filtered down while the others explored the short cave. I wondered if the pit could be climbed without going straight up the rope. It didn't look too hard so, with a single Gibbs belay I climbed up via a short traverse. No problem! I rappelled back down using the suicide carabiner brake bar method common to climbers. With smoke coming off my glove I made a mental note to bring my rack next time. I then decided to try to climb the small overhang one had to rappel over when descending the pit. This proved to be much more difficult than the traverse, but the thought of hanging free on one Gibbs until the others returned proved to be sufficiently motivating to complete the climb. Afterwards I rappelled back down for the third time.

In Douglas's Caves of Virginia, the map of Devil's Hole shows a high lead sixty feet above the base of the entrance pit. Naturally I felt the urge to try to climb it. About twenty feet above the floor the urge suddenly became extinguished while hanging on an aid sling under a small but ominous overhang. I daydreamed about the climb for the next three days and could only see myself gaining two or three feet each trip, but I felt the calling!

After not having made the climb on my first try, I had to return. On the next trip I reached the previous point on the climb and zipped up the entire 60 feet having quelled my mild acrophobia. I briefly checked out the dead end crawl and returned to the top of the climb. A feeling of euphoria came over me that lasted for at least a week. It was all over, the climbing junkie had had his first fix.

Since my first encounter in Devil's Hole, most of my spare time has been spent in the winter sunlight. Local climbing areas in the valley seemed overlooked by established climbers. New Market Gap was one of my first climbing areas. Being a caver, the numerous loose and rotten rocks seemed to be a normal part of the climbing situation. Other climbers had written the cliffs off as too loose to be worth anything. After a few lead climbs done with partners learning to belay on the spot, I surmised that they might of had a point.

The next month was spent lead climbing on a 9mm rope at mostly local climbing areas like Chimney Rocks and Hone Quarry's lover's leap. I never really considered top-roping single pitch climbs. My experience caving had taught me that cavers cannot afford to fall in a cave, as even a slight injury could cause extreme difficulty. This philosophy was carried over to my climbing, the rope and the protection points were only a token safety measure.

Eventually the inevitable happened. The grotto planned a trip to Seneca Rocks to rappel and ascend a 300 foot drop (caving style) to train new members. We stopped by the climbers shop and packed up some supplies including a new guidebook. While reading it, one route caught my eye. There was a 265 foot easy climb on the Southern Pillar. What the hell, I had a few chocks and our trusty 9mm rope. After the climb I realized why climbers carry all that gear; they really need it! Doubts about the 9mm rope began to surface in my mind on the last 60 feet of the climb. Seneca Rocks seemed to be a fun, but serious place to climb.

Climbing locally and at Seneca Rocks during the week and after caving trips proved to satisfy the "urge." An 11mm rope was substituted for old faithful because real climbers told us it was insane to lead on a 9mm rope. The amount of gear necessary on a long climb became evident. The climbing shops at Seneca Rocks, Blacksburg, and Northern Virginia loved us for cleaning out their slow moving winter inventory of climbing gear. Mike Artz and his Master Charge Card proved time and time again the consumptionist attitude of the American College Student.

As winter slowly let loose it's grip on the mountains, I found myself leaving the down jacket behind and not having to clear ice out of chock cracks. Spring Break at JMU arrived along with a planned paradise—five days at Seneca Rocks. We cranked seven pitches the first day. As a caver, climbing ethics go only as far as not totally destroying the rock. Aiding off of fixed pins and especially using the knee hold are considered fair game.



TROUT/SINNIT-THORN MOUNTAIN,
ALL IN ONE DAY!

On April 11, 1981, Mike Artz, Elizabeth Connor, and I, Bruce Beard, left JMU for West Virginia and Trout and Sinnit Cave. At 10 a.m., we entered Trout Cave, heading for the back, where the PSC had supposedly started and abandoned a dig in the never-ending quest to connect Trout and Hamilton Caves. Mike and I dug for a couple hours, made about 25 feet of progress and then rejoined Elizabeth and exited the cave at 2 p.m. after a four hour trip.

After a filling and welcome lunch at Thompson's (in Franklin) we drove to Sinnit, where we planned to explore the area behind the Waterfall Room (which is reached by a rather obscure climb and bellycrawl that Mike and I had discovered and partially explored two week's earlier. The cave back there, while far from being virgin, is not well known and neither of us had ever been back there before.) and then take Elizabeth through the Connection to Thorn Mountain.

But first, we had to hike up to the Thorn Mountain entrance pit, which we had heard was gated for the summer. We found the gate to be in place but unlocked and we hiked back down, dressed and entered Sinnit at 6:30 p.m. We moved quickly back to the Waterfall Room, slowing only to bypass a huge 14-member, all ages and sizes caving party in the main section of the stream passage.

We spent a solid three hours exploring the remote sections beyond the Waterfall Room (which were far more extensive than we had suspected) and found: a balcony overlooking the Waterfall, the stream above the Waterfall, a couple of substantial rooms, a number of climbs and crawlways and a whole lot of mud. The cave was more wet than usual and we found three kinds of mud (i.e. the kind you can walk through, the kind you must crawl through and the kind you can climb). It seemed to be everywhere! Still, we were tired but cheerful when we turned back and exited via the Silo, the Big Room, the Connection and Thorn Mountain, where we emerged at midnight.

Elizabeth, on her first day caving, had spent 9 1/2 hours underground and was quite tired. Indeed, all of us were ready for dinner and bed as we stumbled down the hill to our car, where Mike and I vowed to return next fall, as soon as the bats finish nursing and the gates are unlocked.

- Bruce Beard

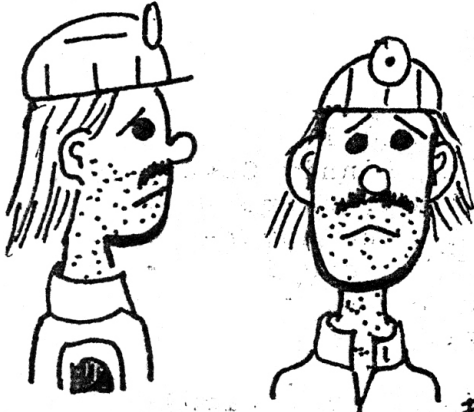
EDITOR'S NOTE: Trout was, on April 11, not considered a closed cave for those of you who might be wondering. Also, the 25 feet of cave was virgin and although it's blowing a considerable amount of air, it looks very doubtful!

OTR continued-

of the Robertson Association to attend. It only costs \$1 and you're a lifetime member. To join contact Hester Nettles, The Robertson Association 11329 Fairfax Drive Great Falls, VA 22066. Or contact a grotto chairman or someone who may have an application form.

SUBTERRANEAN SOAP

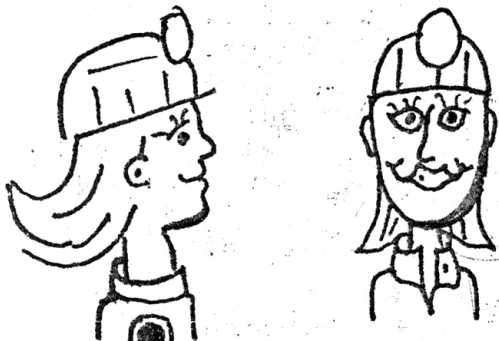
MIKE ARTZ



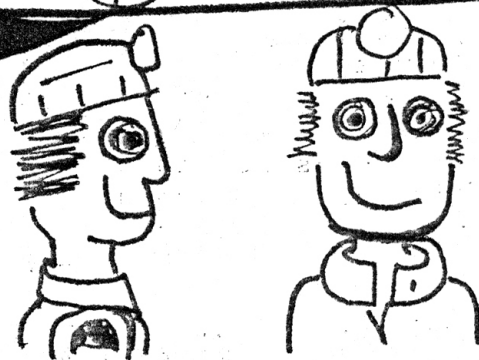
JOHN FLAINCAVER, NSS #
 — NOBODY IS AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE. HE MAY LOOK MEEK — BUT UNDERNEATH, IS A VENGEANCE UNEQUALED!
 IN CONTRAST IS



MANLY MUSCLES, NSS 25001
 — HE'S NEW TO CAVING BUT HE'S THE STRONGEST & MOST HARD CORE. NO PASSAGE IS TOO SMALL FOR HIM, HE JUST FLEXES HIS MUSCLES. HIS GAL IS

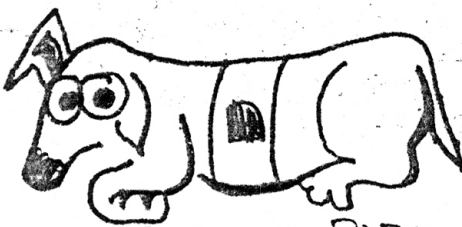


LINDA LITTLE, NSS 24000.
 — SHE'S BEEN 'AROUND (WITH EVERYONE) FOR AWHILE. WHEN CONFRONTED WITH A SMALL PASSAGE, SHE GETS SMALLER. SHE LIKES



BOZO BRAINS, NSS *6?A
 HE CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS FRIED. ONE LOOK AT HIM & YOU CAN TELL WHAT HE DOES — JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. HIS MASTER IS

HOT DOG, NSS ? BELONGS



TO BOZO OR DOES BOZO BELONG TO HIM? HE GET'S AS FRIED AS BOZO.

AN UPDATE AT ROBINS RIFT

During the Spring and early Summer of this year, MUSGers have aided Ed Ricketts in his ambitious project of reopening Robins Rift in Bath County Virginia. The first serious digging trip took place during our Spring Fling Weekend at Aqua Campsite. Several VPI cavers have also helped out with a full day of hard work accompanied by the voluminous consumption of beer. Those efforts resulted in the opening of a 10 by 5 inch hole that blasted enticing amounts of cold air. The Potomac Speleological Club planned a massive, full scale cave construction project during the three day Memorial Weekend. Over the weekend a circus-like atmosphere pervaded as scores of people in and around the huge sinkhole shored up the very unstable walls directly above the digging area so that the "diggers" could work without having tons of dirt falling around them. The weekend ended with a small hole approximately the same size as the one opened earlier but about 10 feet deeper in the hole. For a superb story of this trip, see the June issue of The Potomac Caver.

On the weekend of June 13, a much smaller group of cavers returned to the site to hopefully finish up the dig. The fruits of countless man-hours and labor paid off on Saturday as a person sized hole was opened up directly beneath a shaky looking boulder that was estimated to weigh not less than five tons. The boulder seemed to be supported by loose dirt and rock around the sides. On Saturday night, a commando trip was undertaken to acquire a 1900 pound item that was intended to help stabilize the entrance area. The mission was secret so the details must remain sketchy.

Sometime on Sunday morning a decision was made to enter the cave as it was in an attempt to locate another possible entrance close by by surveying to other high areas of the cave near the existing sinkhole. The trip was intended to be as rapid as possible. After many morbid jokes to relieve tension, Mike Duncan, Mike Artz, Dick Sanford, and Miles Drake descended on a short ladder drop under the "mother boulder" to begin the survey. Their progress was slowed by the extremely unstable conditions of the entrance room along with water pouring off of the ceiling. About two and a half hours later, the four exited the cave via the crawl under the boulder. They all agreed that the cave was dangerous, wet, cold, and gross. Miles Drake had become slightly hypothermic and was glad to get out into the steamy hot weather. The survey was not completed but Mike Artz had found an upper level lead that contained some surface debris. The survey needed to be finished so another survey party was put together.

Having seen the first party emerge without trouble, my negative judgement on the dubious entrance area melted away in hopes of seeing the cave that had been closed for six years. Miles quickly agreed to let me go in his place. The new survey group consisted of Ed Ricketts, Dick Sanford, Mike Artz, and myself, I descended on belay and probed around while the others down

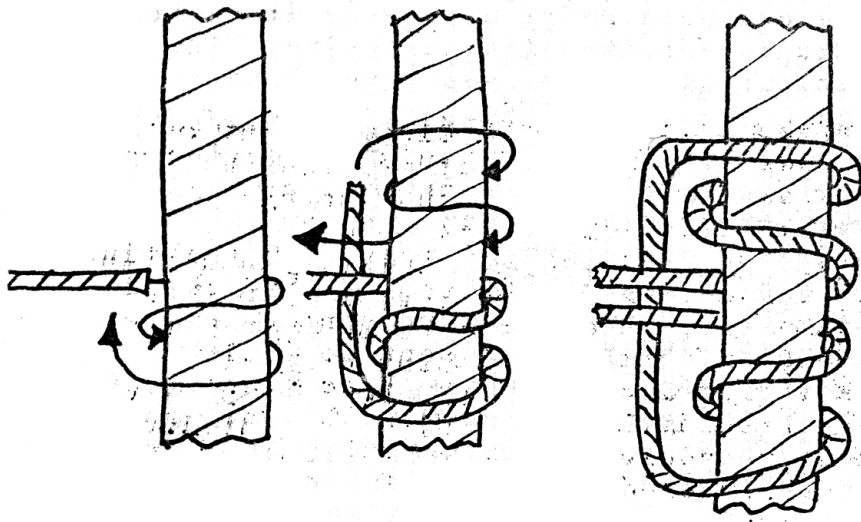
climbed the ladder. The cave did not appear to be as nasty as the others described. Other than the very loose condition of the entrance room, the cave seemed to be your standard miserable, wet, muddy cave. The small entrance room opened vertically into a large room where our group picked up the last survey station and continued horizontally in quite sizable passage for several stations. Care was taken to avoid the numerous holes in the floor leading to the lower levels. Soon we were in semitortuous breakdown heading up through the higher level in which Mike Artz had found a lead. The lead ended up being non-passable but continued almost directly up. After a brief rest, we quickly scrambled down into the breakdown after the survey was concluded.

The area was like Swiss Cheese and involved squeezing into holes and backing out. While in a small alcove under what we had just surveyed, I was looking around for another way to make upward progress. One side of the alcove was blowing a lot of air through a three inch slot. I started pulling rocks and gravel out of the slot and Mike Artz joined me. After enlarging the hole, I squeezed into the hole but backed out so I could inhale once again. Mike pushed through the tight squeeze without his helmet on while I enlarged the hole and followed. We climbed down about twenty feet to the top of a pit which Mike guesstimated to be 60 feet deep. We found out later this pit may be the Marvel Dome (?) discovered from a lower level when the cave was open before. Ed and Dick were getting anxious to leave the cave so Mike and I joined them and headed out. Dick arrived at the base of the drop first and began to tie into the belay rope for the ladder climb. I decided not to use a belay feeling it was not necessary and asked Dick if he minded if I went out first. He said to go ahead and I zipped up the ladder. At the top of the ladder, I paused to remove my pack before the squeeze between the rocks. I made an effort to move smoothly in the area under the boulder and then stood up in the bottom of the hole. I turned around seconds after getting clear of the entrance and watched in dismay as several hundred pounds of dirt and rock proceeded to rumble down into the area I had just squeezed through. While screaming "Rock!" down the hole to the others, the entire entrance area was vibrating as I made a hopeless effort to slow the collapse with my arms. After about eight seconds of steady slides, the movement stopped. The situation initially looked very depressing. The belay line and ladder were buried under dirt and rock. The squeezeway had closed leaving only smaller secondary holes. I couldn't help briefly thinking what would have happened if I had taken an extra five seconds in the crawlway. I could talk to the three still in the cave through the small holes and I tried to explain the situation calmly, telling them to stay clear and it would be a little while before they could climb out. Ed replied "Okay" and Mike Duncan ran down the hole and I explained exactly what had happened. He decided to call a rescue. A collapse had been anticipated and an envelope in Ed's van had all the instructions for calling a major

rescue. A flurry of activity began as Gregg Clemmer went off to call for help. Mike Duncan took over immediately, instructing those of us on the surface to cut additional shoring and braces to stabilize the area. I was shaken up pretty good and was worried that the entrance would seal up completely. As shifting noises continued from behind the shoring timbers, I ran around and gathered up some space blankets. These were sent down the hole right away and later a pack of food was sent down also. Mike Duncan, and Matthew Peletier assembled the braces as we cut them and brought them down in the sinkhole. With the entrance temporarily semi-stabilized, we pulled a large rock out of the only remaining holes. This increased the size of the hole big enough so that Ed could make an effort to get out. Ed assisted in further digging while wedged hanging on the now freer ladder. He jammed his upper body through the hole and practically plowed his head and shoulders through. He emerged from the entrance and we waited as the area was further stabilized. At this point it was clear that Mike Artz could fit through the hole but Dick Sanford would never fit through with his nine inch chest. We debated whether Mike should get out immediately to avoid entrapment if the whole entrance area collapsed or if he should wait and keep Dick company. Ed finally said that Mike himself should decide so we yelled down the alternatives. Mike said he would wait with Dick.

Further digging using the boom rigged above the entrance enlarged the hole somewhat. Dick climbed up the ladder and determined that the hole was still too tight. After more digging, Dick again looked out and said it seemed possible. Someone suggested he remove his clothes first. He climbed down, discarded his coveralls and shirt and tried again. He forced his way into the hole and spent several minutes in the critical area of the collapse gaining about two inches at a time with the help of people pulling on him. Finally he emerged, shaking, with a huge hysterical grin on his face. He was helped out of the hole and someone gave him a beer. He continued to smile with blue lips. Although muddy, he looked very happy. Mike Artz gathered all of the gear at the base of the ladder and started to send it up before easily climbing out four and a half hours after entering. The rescue was immediately called off. Everyone was very happy that the situation had ended as happily as it did and most people proceeded to drink beer and talk. Cavers from the area and Waynesboro (SVG) had arrived at the scene very quickly. During the conversations that followed it was pointed out that the incident had dramatically illustrated that entering the cave is very dangerous and doing so without a back-up crew is utterly foolish.

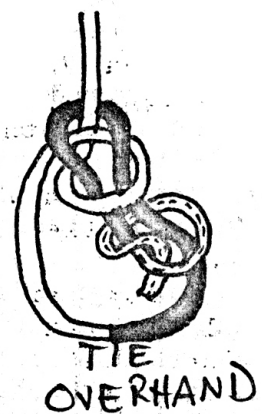
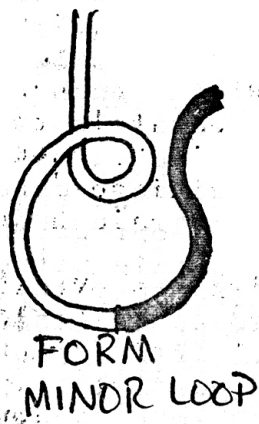
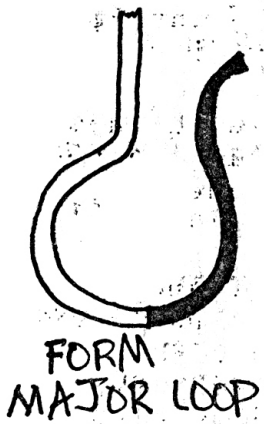
- Bob Carts



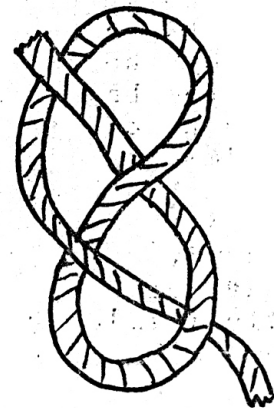
HERE ARE THE MEMBERSHIP
REQUIRED KNOTS! HAVE FUN!

PRUSSIK

THIS IS A 4 TURN PRUSSIK
YOU CAN MAKE A 6 OR 8
TURN PRUSSIK IF YOU
FIND IT IS SLIPPING.



A DOUBLE BOWLINE CAN BE TIED BY MAKING
A SECOND MINOR LOOP ON TOP OF THE FIRST
ONE.



B
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FIGURE 8

SQUARE KNOT

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

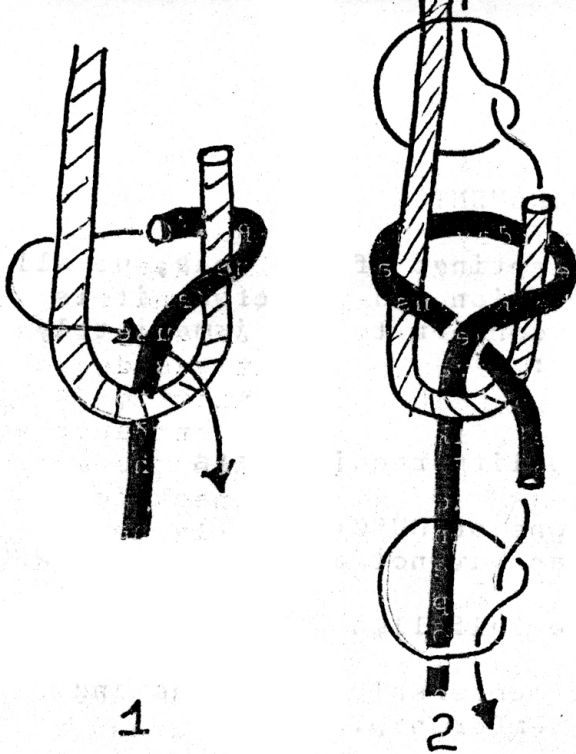
If you remember at the last two meetings of the year, we all decided to accept the proposed constitution and therefore it is now in effect! An Article that is of concern to you immediately is Article III - Membership. It reads:

1. Regular Membership
 - a. rights, privelages, and eligibility requirements
 - 1) Full voting privelages
 - 2) Entitled to all publications of MUSG
 - 3) May be a committee chairman but not an officer of MUSG
 - 4) Must pay dues of MUSG
 - 5) Basic requirements must be fulfilled
 - b. procedure for application
 - 1) Contact any member of the membership committee and request applications for membership.
2. Full Membership
 - a. rights, privelages, and eligibility requirements
 - 1) Same as those of Regular Membership
 - 2) Must be a member of the National Speleological Society
 - 3) May be an officer of MUSG
 - b. procedure for application
 - 1) Same as b, 1) above
3. Student Membership
 - a. rights, privelages, and eligibility requirements
 - 1) Open to all who are interested
 - 2) No voting privelages
 - 3) No payment of dues required
 - b. procedure for application
 - 1) Same as b, 1) above

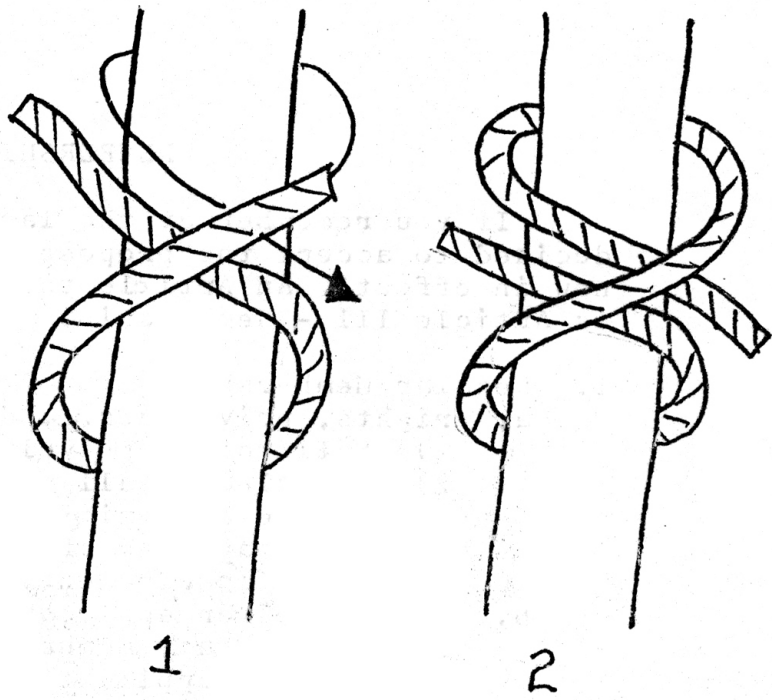
Jaime and I have talked and we have decided upon some Membership Requirements as there is no standing Membership & Training Committee.

1. Spend at least 10 hours caving with at least 3 club members.
 - *2. Have a working knowledge of a carbide lamp
 - **3. Be vertically competent. i.e. rappell, ascend.
 - **4. Be able to belay properly
 - *5. Have a reasonable cave pack
 - *6. Know all required knots. i.e. square, bowline, figuree eight, prussik, butterfly, clove hitch, sheet bend, grapevine, and tape knots.
 - *7. Be a member of PSC or VPI
 8. Be endorsed by either a Regular or Full Member.
- * denotes that it must be confirmed by Vice President
** denotes that it can be acquired at training sessions.

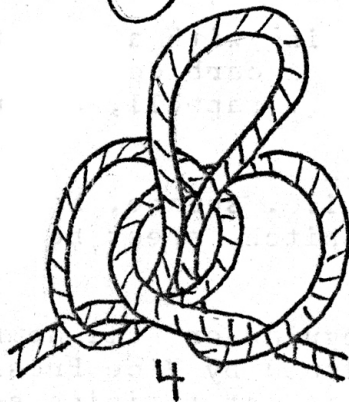
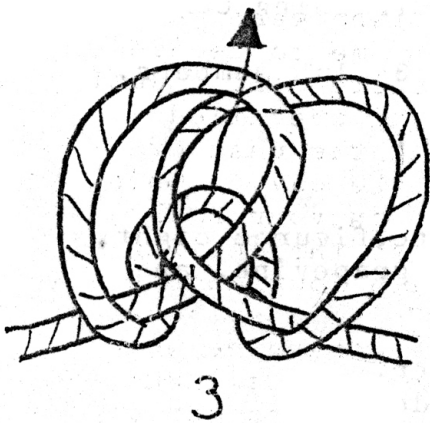
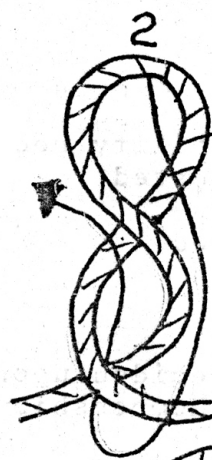
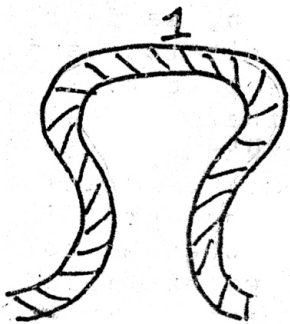
As it stands right now, Mike Artz, Bob Carls, Jaime Reep, and Joey Fagan have met Full Membership Requirements while Bruce Beard has met Regular requirements. If you think you have met these above requirements, contact Jaime Reep at 780-5810 (703). All of the knots you need to know are on the following pages!



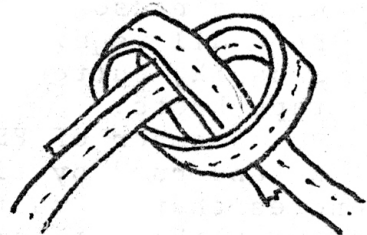
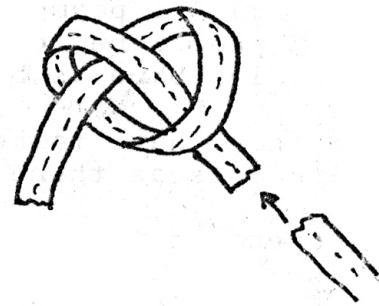
SHEET BEND



CLOVE HITCH



BUTTERFLY



TAPE KNOT

The GRAPEVINE Knot will be discussed in the next ISSUE!

LOCKRIDGE'S AQUA

by Jaime Reep



YOU WANT
ME TO GO
IN THERE?

On Saturday, May 23, Bob Carls, Dave Thorpe (OSC), and Jaime Reep tired of the Robins Rift dig and decided to do some caving. Because three wetsuits were available, it was decided it was the perfect opportunity to do Aqua Cave. While walking to the entrance we boldly talked of jumping into the water and doing the duckunder in neck deep water not thinking we'd really have to. Upon reaching the cave we saw the old entrance was completely submerged, the new one had approximately two inches of air space and the water was approximately 40 to 45°F. We weren't so bold anymore! After five minutes of acclimating to the water, Bob talked Dave into entering the six feet long entrance slot. Without hesitating and with a parachute cord attached to him for safety, Dave went in, said it was a rush and that it wasn't too hard.

Somehow Bob then managed to talk Dave into exiting so that we could see how bad it really was. A little reluctantly, Dave reemerged stating that it was harder coming out. I was still undecided on whether to enter the cold, dark, water-filled slot or to spend the rest of my time in the warm afternoon air drinking cold beer. Dave and Bob

were becoming impatient waiting and were ready to enter and began pleading with me to decide quickly as they were becoming quite cold. Just when I thought good judgement had prevailed and I would be laying in the sun the rest of the day, I found myself inside the cave! Going in was accomplished by floating on your back with your nose pressed up against the ceiling

and entering feet first. After about three feet with four inches of air space it gradually lowered to two inches. We were supposed to keep talking as we floated through to ensure the others we were okay but I completely submerged and all that came out was a gurgle. It was so cold and scary that I couldn't do anything but muster up a feeble grunt anyway. It opened up immediately into total darkness but with lots of airspace. We swam to a bank about five feet away, got our lights going and gear together and we were off! Most of the cave is good sized, interesting, and you can avoid the cold water most of the time after entering. The entrance was so exhilarating that I only had my mind on that scene. Getting out was equally exciting as it was some of the best five seconds I can remember. I can't wait to go back and do it again, maybe when the water is warmer, say 50°F.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST!

Hensley Cave, one of the better known caves in Shenandoah County, Va is having a permanent face lift (also known as Pleasant View Church Cave). Although it's well known for its' beautiful formations it may be better known for its' notorious 9 1/2 inch wide vertical entrance (18ft.). A hole four feet in diameter was blasted through twenty feet of solid rock with 100 sticks of dynamite to an avenue in the cave to provide a second entrance. The owner of the cave is building a house over the cave and plans to heat and air condition his new house with cave air. He also plans to plug up the old entrance but wouldn't he be better off to keep it open for better circulation? Granted there are critter holes and other small air holes but I don't deem this sufficient for his purpose. Nevertheless, we are beginning talks with him over gating the old entrance. Meanwhile if you want to see the cave without going through the rigors of the old entrance, better come quick because it'll soon be plugged! Directions are in our cave files.

The Cave Files have almost 100 caves in them. We need you to check them out and write down any new caves and directions to them and any others you know of! Only about 50 of the 100 have written down directions. Help! Mike Artz has them during the summer and Brooks Bozman will have them this coming school year.

Fall Ball will be held this fall most likely on the 25 - 27 of September. It will be similar to Spring Fling but it will be at Seneca Rocks. Bring friends! Lotsa big caves to cave in and rock faces to climb on.

There may be a vertical trip to Hellhole before it closes September 1st. Get your vertical rig together this summer and we'll do the 180' drop! If Hellhole falls through we'll do Sites.

Don't forget the trips you are going on this summer. We want to put them on our log and publish them in the Journal. Please just write down the cave, the cavers on the trip, the date, and how many hours spent in the cave and any comments you might have about the trip. You can even send it on a post card! It's cheaper!

CLAP-CLAP-CLAP-CLAP. Give yourselves a hand. Over a nine month period we have logged as a club, approximately 286 hours underground. This doesn't include at least 25 trips that don't even have an amount recorded. We definitely have reached over 300 hours! Next year lets outdo ourselves! Maybe a 60 hour trip to Simmon's-Mingo, some 20 hour trips to Robins Rift now that it's quasi-open, Baner Spring and Toohey Ridge, etc. may put us over. How about it fellow cavers? 400 hours isn't that much!

T-Shirts will be for sale starting about the 4th of July. They will say Speleo Power with an exceleent drawing of a bat by Matt Wagner. Prices will be about \$6. They also will say JMU Student Grotto on the front! Get your own short sleeve and let the caving world know that MUSG is here! Limited edition of 25. If you want one, let Bob Carts know.

Can you believe it? Another festivity to attend! "Pig Out" is a pig barbecue at Mike Artz' farm in Woodstock, Va. We will have waterskiing, swimming, frisbee, a keg or two, a trip to the notorious Hell's Crawl in Gochenour's Cave, fishing and almost anything else we can plan to do! We may be camping but I cannot guarantee anything. There will be a beer and pig fee and we would like to know who's coming! Please contact Mike Artz or Bob Carts soon! It should occur right after school starts back as long as this doesn't conflict with OTR.

It looks like meetings will move this year to 96D Dutch Mill Court. Mike Artz, Bob Carts, and Paul Clifford are living there and you can't beat that combination. It's really close to campus and A&P (good place for beer runs!).

Please note that a handful of West Virginia Caves we have visited or intend to visit in the fu ure have been closed. Because most of us won't be in the area this summer when the majority of these caves are closed it may not affect you but please abide by these closings if you plan to be around.

CAVE MOUNTAIN CAVE-----	Gated and closed March 15th through August 30th.
HOFFMAN SCHOOL CAVE-----	Gated and closed March 15th through August 30th.
HELLHOLE CAVE-----	Fenced and closed September 1st through May 15th.
SINNIT-THORN MOUNTAIN----- SYSTEM	Both entrances gated and closed March 15 through August 30th.
TROUT-----	Closed and Posted until further notice.
NEW TROUT-----	Closed and Posted until further notice.
HAMILTON-----	Closed and Posted until further notice.

If you know of any other closings or of any wrong information, please contact the editor.

Jaime Reep notes that Robins Rift Excavators Ltd. has awarded MUSG six shares of stock in the company for participation in the PSC dig over the memorial Day Weekend. Bob Carts, Bob Ebaugh, Katy Kahle, and Jaime Reep received one share each while Mike Artz earned two shares for his hard working efforts.

The Potomac Caver has a very good article on the recent progress at Robins Rift (up till this recent trip on which an article appears elsewhere in this issue) of which many MUSGers have helped with. Many of the more enjoyable moments are mentioned. Look for more on Robins Rift as fall comes!

Spring Var was held at Blacksburg, April 25, 1981 with many topics being discussed within an unusually short period of time. Some topics included:

- Bob & Sue Custard are the new editors of VAR/FYI,
- tentative plans for a new publication by the Virginia Speleological Survey,
- a comment that Fraley's Cave had been gated (Hell if I know where it is!),
- a lengthy report on the Virginia Cave Conservancy.

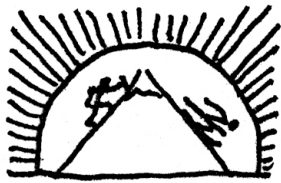
It appears that the next VAR will be held at Thorn Springs Campground and hosted by PSC. Please note that this is tentative.

CAVING ACCIDENT BOOK SUMMARY

Last month the booklet American Caving Accidents, 1976-1979 was sent to all NSS members. It contains interesting accounts of various speleoaccidents and an analysis of how they could have been avoided. Many accidents involved inexperienced "cavers" who were poorly equipped. For example, entering a cave with a single light source such as a flashlight. These novice cavers also got into trouble using unsafe, outdated, and improper vertical techniques and by just being plain ignorant of the dangers of caving. I hope that all our members fall short of this foolishness exhibited in these accidents as we have repeatedly gone over these facets of cave exploration and safety. Accidents involving experienced cavers were the result of trusting one's ability in places where he shouldn't have. Lack of belays on seemingly easy climbs and traverses and pushing one's physical limits therefore becoming tired and cold, seemed to be the cause or a factor in many cases. Some were unavoidable by any caver --it just involved bad luck. Weather, specifically flooding, caused many entrapments so be aware of weather forecasts before entering. Hypothermia is always a problem when the cave is wet. Be ready. Wetsuits, plastic bags, and space blankets help greatly. Proper preparations, sufficient food and equipment and the constant use of safety techniques will prevent a great majority of these accidents. Never be afraid to ask for a belay or to tell a fellow caver that you are tiring and wish to retreat.

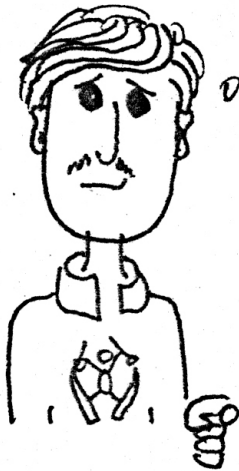
This booklet is a very valuable tool for informing oneself about cave safety. I suggest that all MUSG members who are not also NSS members should try to borrow a copy from Mike, Bob, or me or join the NSS and get one. One of the best ways to learn what or what not to do is unfortunately from others mistakes!

-Jaime Reep



THE OUTFITTERS

785 EAST MARKET STREET
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
TELEPHONE (703) 433-9547



YOU SHOULD COME TO THE
OUTFITTERS RIGHT
AWAY. THEY'VE GOT
NORTHFACE, VASQUE, JANSPORT,
BLACK ICE, BOAST SHIRTS, AND
ALL KINDS OF T-SHIRTS,
THEY'VE EVEN GOT FREEZE
DRIED FOODS & BACKPACKING
RENTALS FOR YOU MOUNTAIN
NUTS! FOR THIS SUMMER
THEY'VE ALSO GOT CLIMBING
ACCESSORIES & GRASS SKIS
RENTALS & SALES!

MIKE ARTZ