

VPI Cave Club

2003 – 2004 Officers:

President: Mike Cole

Vice President: John Booker

Treasurer: Scott Rapier

Secretary: Mark Eisenbies

Minutes by Mark Eisenbies from September 5, 2003 through March 19, 2005.

Compiled into pdf format by Mike Cole March 28, 2005.

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Sept 5, 2003

Officers' Reports

Secretary: No Minutes

Treasurer: No report.

President: Tawneys Situation - Quarry and cave closed until gate. Wells is working on it. OTR Grotto participation award. OTR Tug of war earned \$80 which was donated to the club to purchase 2 carbide lamps.

Committee Reports

STC: Kevin Rock is new Chair

Store: Has stuff to sell.

Conservation: Report on Nellie's cave cleanup. Fall VAR Sept 27, Rural Retreat.
Nellie's Cave Cleanup at 10am proceed to VAR and BBQ.

Ordorffs arrive late 7:20 pm

Program: Mike Cole, Welcome to the VPI Cave Club

Announcements: Kirk has carbide lamps for sale

Old Business: None

New Business: Walt Nominated for Club Advisor (Kirk1, Pam2).

Trip Reports: Blaister - Radio Location, Travis - Boy Spots and Coonshit survey, Sam Banes all girls, Kirk Buddy Penley's, Patty K. Links with younguns, Mike Cole Kings?.

Trip Plans: Travis - Smokehole Sunday; Booker - Links Saturday; Michie - Back before football.

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Sept 12, 2003

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: Minutes from last meeting
Phonelist paper going around

President: Trip leaders for VAR needed for Picnic area caves (Sept 27)
Sept 30 a HS wants to go underground and needs a volunteer guide
Club Calendar is available on the WEB

Treasurer: Over summer club received \$668
\$ 3,728 Liquid Assets
\$ 14,982 Total Assets
Pay Dues!

Mailbag:

Huntviller, Loyalhanna, NSS News and whole Summer's mail

Committee Reports:

Conservation: Fall VAR Sept 27
Nellie's Cave Cleanup in morning ~10am proceed to VAR

Program: Programs set for next several weeks, but we need programs!

Tawney's Gate: Main entrance will be gated, Fat Man's will probably be fence
Gating will occur Sept 20 and 21
See Steve Wells for more info

Program:

Nelson Rocks, WV Via Feratta trips over OTR. Mark Eisenbies

Announcements:

Nikki has free clothes
Camron (Gumby) is looking for weekday and weekend night trips to accommodate his
work schedule

Old Business:

Walt declined nomination for faculty advisor

New Business:

Steve Wells motioned "I would like to make a motion that the club provide a temporary loan, not to exceed \$3000, for the debts incurred during the gating of Tawneys Cave. This loan will be guaranteed paid back within two months after the gate is installed."

Steve Lepera 2nd

Debate but no modifications. \$1600 has been collected thus far and will arrive before the gate is installed.

Motioned passed 6 - 0 (full quorum)

Trip Reports:

Sandy (the younger) didn't kill anyone

Chris Lee went

John Booker went

Jess Flirting with John (7:52 pm)

Trip Plans:

Deighan is looking for a trip

Booker is planning a trainee trip

Philip planning a Buddy Penley's trip

Speleosemenar:

Bat Ranch

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: 7:23 pm Sept 19, 2003

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: Minutes read and approved by President

Treasurer: deposited \$195.00 from dues
Received \$1200 for Tawney's Gate Project

Mailbag:

Received checks

Committee Reports:

Tawneys Gate Comm: Wells will be digging on 9-19-03 to prepare entrance for gating.
Meet at 9 am at signout

Program Chair: Needs programs

Jess is informed that her flirtation with John in the previous meeting was noted in the minutes. (7:26 pm)

Program:

Guatamala, Mike Futrell

Orndorffs, Pam, and Tom arrive late. (7:33 pm)

Announcements:

- Septapus plays Batranch 9-20-2003
- Kirk has carbide lamps for sale
- Mike Cole promotes listserv membership

Old Business:

none

New Business:

Philip Balister motions to donate \$100.00 to the campaign for Jerry Thompson
(Skydusky Hollow) for Sheriff of Bland County.
Kirk Digby Seconds

Trip Reports:

Kirk, Burnett, Setzler : Starnes

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: 7:23 pm Sept 19, 2003

Booker, Brian, Jess, Deighan, Paige, Berndon : Starnes

Spot, Philip, Mark, Carrie, Rob : Buddy Penleys - Found new cave

Philip, Mark, Tom M., Sandy, Kevin went to dig in new cave on Tuesday

Trip Plans:

Philip - Digging - Signout at 9am

Booker - Sunday trip

Wells - Tawneys

Speleosemenar:

No official

Meeting Adjurns 10:17 pm

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Sept 26, 2003

Minutes: Read and approved

Officers' Reports:

Treasurer: \$180 Deposited Liquid \$5500 Total \$16748
Presidet: Something about club name change crap

Mailbag:

Journal of Kart Studies; WV Caver w/ photos

Committee Reports:

Halloween Party Nov 1st at BatRanch
Gating a possibility Oct 4th or 5th
Banquet Chair - Sandy R.

Program: N/A

Announcements:

VAR Cave cleanup this weekend 10am
Carbide Lamps for sale
Trog Articles are needed
Homecoming Banner in the works

Old Business: None

New Business: Need a new place to meet before meeting

Trip Reports:

Joe-Carcass Crypt Pit, Lawrence Co, Indiana; Sandy, Mammoth Cave; Spot, Dig;
BRAD WENT CAVING with Michie in Smokehole

Trip Plans:

Nellies Cleanup
John - Venture Out - Starnes

Speleosemenar:

Dave C's

Meeting Adjurnes 7:42 pm

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: October 3, 2003

Officers' Reports:

President: University forced name change forced back to VPI Cave Club after they heard Spot was to be involved. Dixie Caverns Haunted cave will happen, notify Dave Hanks by Oct 17. Homecoming Parade Float.... not.... missed the deadline anyhow.

Treasurer: \$137 Deposits. \$16817 Total. \$5565 Liquid

Secretary: Phone lists will be out by next week, make corrections or tough shit

Mailbag: Yes, Spot is Male... you tell him he's baggy.

Committee Reports:

Pre Meeting Meeting Committee - No Activity

Supplies Committee - Travis Stepping Down, we need a new store.

Tawneys Gate: Will happen sometime after Oct 18.

Program: None

Announcements: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Trip Reports:

Sandy - Nellies Cave Cleanup

Fifi - Skydusky Dig, and Newberries VAR trip (possible broken rib suffered)

Rob? Went somewhere with someone

Omega/Lori Cori Accident Report - Mike and Andrea Futrell

Q/A - FS is positive about cavers contiuning to operate in this area. Bill Storage will conduct accident analysis (gearwise). Memorial, next weekend in the DC-Baltimore Area.

Rescue was low key. 20 people in cave at a time, 7 people on mountain.

See attached accident report

Trip Plans:

Maybrook sinkhole - Vert Practice

Paige - Fairmount BS going somewhere Sat/Sun

Mark - Digging in Skydusky Sunday

Speleo-seminar: Batranch

Meeting Adjourns, 8 pm ish

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: October 3, 2003

Fatal Accident in Lori Cori Canyon Cave

This is a collaborative account by members of the group. Distribute as appropriate.

On Saturday September 27, 2003 a crew consisting of Mike Ficco, Andrea Futrell, Mike Futrell, Dick Graham, Sue Setzler, Ron Simmons, and Steve Wells entered Lori Cori Canyon Cave in Wise County Virginia. A routine survey trip had been planned.

Everything proceeded normally as the group climbed down the entrance, and then crawled, climbed and chimneyed down to the 90-foot pit. A nuisance drop of about 20-feet quickly follows the 90-foot pit and begins a challenging section of tall narrow winding canyon where one straddles and chimneys midway on slimy little ledges above a narrowing crack that in many places prevents one from accessing the 'floor' that is 20-feet below. This canyon loses 60-feet of elevation in a little over 300 feet of distance.

The canyon abruptly widens about 40-feet before a large dome-pit. Here there is a traverse line along the wall that allows one to cross a greasy sloping shelf, as the bottom of the canyon and its little stream are still dropping away below. In about 25 feet the traverse line meets another rope that provides an 18-foot rappel to another traverse line. This second traverse line extends 20-feet out along a greasy sloping shelf to the primary rigging for a 213-foot drop. The rig points are bolts; the rope is 11mm PMI. At the top of the 213' one would be cow-tailed to the traverse line while standing or kneeling on a very slick sloping shelf approximately four feet wide. A heavy pad is on the lip. From that point the rope hangs free to the bottom. For the upper few dozen feet the rope hangs inches away from the wall gradually increasing to several feet. By midway down the drop the wall is 8 to 10 feet away. Here a flowstone shelf rolls out and comes within 2-inches of the free-hanging rope. Below the flowstone are some nice draperies and the wall gradually recedes again to about 10-feet away at the bottom.

Communication up and down the big pit is very difficult due to the acoustics and small waterfall. It would take a concerted effort by both parties for a person at the bottom of the 18' to clearly see the gear of a person at the lip of the 213'.

Several points along the traverse lines allow room to sit and wait. Available space and safety concerns necessitate spreading out along this area while waiting. Andrea was in the lead and was first down the pit. Dick was second in line. Mike Ficco joined Dick at the bottom of the 18'. Dick began his rappel in a normal fashion and Ficco watched the reflected light from his lamp begin to fade as he descended. Mike estimates that Dick had rappelled 20-30 feet, after which he heard Dick say, "No, No!". This was immediately followed by a very loud 'Boom, BOOM', which was heard by all, presumably a result of Dick first hitting the flowstone shelf followed by the floor of the shaft. Instantly, Andrea began yelling for Dick as she raced down and over from the waiting alcove about 100-feet distant.

Andrea found Dick about 25-feet away from the bottom of the rope and completely detached. With great difficulty she communicated that Dick was dead and that someone else should come down, carefully observing the rope and ledge. Ficco was

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: October 3, 2003

ready and descended next. He confirmed Andrea's observations. Dick's bobbin (simple) was open and his gear appeared normal. Andrea and Ficco did not observe any evidence of rock fall.

The group left the cave in a state of utter shock and disbelief. A raging thunderstorm accompanied them on the hike back up the mountain.

At this point the cause of the accident is unknown. The police are developing pictures from the scene and from the medical examiner. Any hypotheses are strictly speculation, and it is possible that examination of the gear will not conclusively answer numerous questions. Dick was an extremely experienced, competent and safety-conscious caver. Please be considerate of the impact on his friends and family and refrain from public speculation until more is known.

A Great Deal of Credit and a Very Big Thank You are extended to:

- The Wise County Sheriff's Office for doing everything they could to accommodate the needs and desires of the crew and recovery personnel.
- Triangle Rescue for providing equipment, key personnel and for facilitating 'the correct amount at the correct time'.
- All the people that dropped everything, cancelled work and lost sleep to assist in a very stressful and emotional situation.

Whether in the cave, on the surface, or hundreds of miles away, the collective efforts of these individuals and organizations, brought about what was the smoothest cave rescue/recovery incident that most of us have ever witnessed. We are very grateful. Thank you all.

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Oct 16, 2003

Call to Order 7:18pm

Officers' Reports:

President's Report: Haunted Cave, Wednesday 29th 5:15 Carpool, Meet at Dixie Caverns at 6pm, Return 11pm.

Treasurer: \$16,800 Total Assets, \$5,565 Liquid Assets. 3 meters of beer consumed

Mailbag:

Spanish Speleoyadda Photo Contest, SNEWS, Va Cellars, Huntsville G., Fagan was made a Fellow, WVACS fundraiser banquet announcement.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Halloween Program needed

Premeeting Meeting Committee: Had a falling out and will need to meet to make plans to meet.

Trog: Needs articles

Road Cleanup: Nov 1st. Miami game will be played at Batranch to encourage people to be in the ditches picking up trash.

Program: Cave Floddin' Aussie Style

Announcements:

Kirk : Lamps and biners for sale

Same: Punkin' Chunkin'

Mark: Phonelist

Brad: Wood Choppin for halloween, call for dates

Old Business: None

New Business:

Mike: Motion to donate \$100 to WVACS for Tree planting Kirk Second. Motion passed 9-0.

Trip Reports: People Went

Trip Plans: People Going

Speleo-seminar: Chris Lee

Adjourn 7:48

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: October 24, 2003

Call to Order: 7:15pm; minutes Read and Approved

Officers' Reports:

President: Haunted Cave Update

Treasurer: No deposits, no withdrawals. \$5,563 Liquid, ~\$17,800 Total

Mailbag: Guest Speaker, Fifi. Loyalhanna and OTR Rules

7:23 pm: Sandy Ramsey arrives late bearing whip and a redhead.

Committee Reports:

Banquet: Feb 14th tentative. Ramada tentative

Halloween: Help setup, need Elvisgrotto tarp transport

Child slavery committee: Girl for sale. Less compliant than sister, but will throw in sparkly jeans.

Road Cleanup: 9pm Signout. 9:30 Batranch

Tawneys Gate: Early November

Program:

Wil and Zenah. "Use of dye tracers to bore the crap out of Spot" 7:28-8:08

Announcements:

Ray: Halloween wood

Kirk: Gun Show

Spot: Oktoberfest - Das 'Boo' (The cabaret version of Das Boot I guess)

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Trip Reports: 9 Trips reported

Trip Plans: Yes

Speleo-party: Nikki

Adjourn: 8:16 pm

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Oct 31, 2003

Officers' Reports:

President - Dixie Caverns had a successful haunting

Money: \$0.44 in checking interest. Tawney's donation \$100. \$200 Spent on Banquet. \$500 on rescue gear. Liquid \$4,752.14. Total \$16,060.09.

Mailbag:

Value Pak

Committee Reports:

Road Cleanup - 9:30 at batranch

Halloween Party - Starts 7, \$5 cover for food. Crash space available

Program - Seeking Mexico program

Program:

Mike Cole

Announcements:

YTR - Howie was robbed

Brad more wood after road

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Motion to donate \$50 to Howie's harnesses to offset what was stolen. Sandy Knapp.

Seconded ?? Passed 7-0

Trip Reports:

3

Trip Plans:

Yes

Speleo-seminar: Batranch

Adjourn 7:50

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Nov 7, 2003

Call to order 7:15pm

Officers' Reports:

President is boring

Treasurer: \$4,752.14 Liquid \$16,060 Total

Mailbag: None

Committee Reports:

Program: Got none till you get some

Tawney's Gate: Maybe someday. Welder's gotta be a pro

Supplies: Someone needs to take over... considering donating gear to Arsenal via hill.

Trog Ed: Articles in by meeting after X-giving.

Program: None

Announcements:

Phone found at Cleanup

Ben Keller and Friend seek trip

Old Business: None

New Business:

Motion to donate \$100 to Batranch Sauna from a \$200 donation to club at request of donor. Mike Cole. Seconded Steve Lepera. Motion passes 9-1.

Trip Reports: 1 report

Trip Plans: 3 Trips planned

Speleo-seminar: Michie has aluminum at his house that needs cleansing

Meeting Adjourns 7:31pm

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: 11-14-03

Call to Order: 7:11 pm

John Booker Presiding

Officers' Reports:

President

Treasurer - Rports a hardon and ditto balances from the prior week

Mailbag:

SNEWS

Huntsville had article about Dick Graham

Tim Brown - Incumbent on WVCC seeking election... those who can vote should vote against him.

7:13 pm President arrives late for meeting

Committee Reports:

Tawneys - Gas, Steel, It's night, and we're wearing sunglasses
be at cave by 9am

Program: None

Announcements:

Smokehole has new "No Trespassing Sign"

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Trip Reports: 6 Trips reported

7:22 - Geeeff is laaaaaaaaaate

Trip Plans: 4 Trips planned

Speleo-seminar: Ray's

Adjourn 7:25 - 14 minutes - NEW RECORD!!!!

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Jan 23, 2004 First meeting of Spring Semester

No minutes (lost them - tough)

**Geoff Lewis wishes it to be noted in the minutes that he's on time for a change.
What a brown-noser.... sheesh :)**

Officers' Reports:

President: None

Treasurer: 2 months of business. Paid \$70 for mailbox. Took in \$70 for t-shirts. Report on fund performances. Total net income \$214.

\$4776 Liquid. \$16,400 Total

Mailbag:

Happy Holidays from Northern New Jersey. Cleve. Hunstville grotto reports Mark Rocco (sp) fulfilled the requirements for the TAG classic 8 (sounds like a spring break project in the making). Region Record. nsSNOOZE.

Committee Reports:

Banquet: \$35 NonStudent, \$25 Student. Pay or indicate intentions by Feb 6. Parties at Zo's and Colotosti's. Banquet at the Ramada (haven't been thrown out of there yet).

Trog - Fall Trogs distributed

Program: None

Announcements:

Mike Cole - Sweatshirts for sale

VP - blather

Kirk - carbide lamps for sale

Old Business: None

New Business:

Club Calendar Updates and decisions. Pres will report next week I guess.

Trip Reports: 9 trips reported

Trip Plans: Booker - Tawneys; Michie - somewhere hard; Fifi - Elvisgrotto push trip

Speleo-seminar: Booker's

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Jan 30, 2004

Officers' Reports:

Pres: Anniversary Tshirt reorder - 60?

Treas: \$4,776 liquid \$16,400 total

Mailbag: No postal

Committee Reports:

Banquet - Pay before Feb 6.

Program - Sign up sheet

Trogs - Distributed prior week

Publiciry - Flyers will be posted

Program: None

Announcements:

- Cave boots for sale, size 11, see Pete S. Mention Elvisgrotto.com and get a free beer

- Cave book for sale, see any Dave in the club. Mention Elvisgrotto.com and get a free beer.

- Place to rent, across street from Smokehole, see Sam L. Mention Elvisgrotto.com and get a fridge full of beer.

- YTR - First week of April - See any Sandy in the club. Mention Elvisgrotto.com and get your beer free.

Old Business: No

New Business: No

Trip Reports: 5 trips reported. High water in Smokehole. New lead in Elvisgrotto.

Trip Plans:

Dave Colotosti - Elvisgrotto. digging

John Booker - Caving sunday.

Speleo-seminar: Mark's

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Feb-6-04 7:11pm

Officers' Reports:

Treas - \$5,200 liquid \$17,000 total - rented post office box - recieved \$\$ for T-shirt sales.

Mailbag:

Whitewater yadda Adventure yadda 500 yadda flyers yadda take back the night yadda LePera is creepy yadda outdoor dixieducators yadda huntsville yadda cave and karst studies yadda fagan yadda

Committee Reports:

Banquet comm reports information regarding banquet.
Supplies Committee actually arrived for a change.

Program: None

Announcements: None

Old Business: None

New Business: John Booker: "Move the club spend \$152 for five streamlight septor LED headlamps for club gear". Seconded by P Pooler. After some discussion against getting lights that use AAA batteries. Motion passed 8-2-1.

Trip Reports: 4 trips reported. 70 feet surveyed in Elvisgrotto. 2 Bolts placed by Dave C over the new 40 ft drop.

Trip Plans: Travis - Pulaski dig opportunity. Wells - another push in elvisgrotto.
Michie - surveying in Bland. Sam - vertical trip to Giant. Sandy - Tawneys Ice Trip.

Speleo-seminar: Michie's

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Feb 13, 2004

Officers' Reports:

Pres - Submitted NSS Annual report

Treas - \$5,200 liquid \$17,000 total.

Mailbag:

NSS Big Brother Report - Mike and Andrea didn't pay their dues.

Lava Tubes aren't caving

Cincinnati is blue

VT job fair announcement

Committee Reports: None

Program: None

Announcements:

Dave C.- Thanks for driveway help. Officially good enough to get to post-banquet party.

Ray - Beer and tried to keep paint thinner off gear left out at the Bat Ranch barn. Better take better care of your gear.

Dave C. - Found a red-orange-red color coded gear at his house.

Old Business: None

New Business:

P. Balister motions that Geoff Lewis come up for full membership. P. Pooler seconds.

Motion passes 7-0-2. Geoff's number is 398.

Trip Reports:

5 trips reported. Philip plans like a brit, but executes like a West Virginian. Tawneys was flooded (3ft extra water in stream passages)

Trip Plans: None announced.

Speleo-seminar: Zokaites Pre-Banquet Party.

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Feb. 20, 2004

Call to Order 7:05 pm

Officers' Reports:

President - NSS Report was on time. New Sked is on way from the Dick Graham accident.

Treasurer - \$5,200 Liquid \$17,000 total.

Mailbag: Nope

Committee Reports: Nope

Program: No Elephants

Announcements:

Kirk - Carbide Lamps for Sale

Brad - Doug Moore wants to do some NRCS training in the Bburg area.

Old Business: No

New Business: No

Trip Reports:

Fifi - Wolf Creek Dye Tracers

Eileen - Failure

Trip Plans:

WV - Gangsta - Fifi

Brad - Will lead a trop

Deighan - Pig Hole

John - Venture Out (needs a leader)

Mike Cole - William and Mary in 2 weeks.

Speleo-seminar: Bat Ranch

Meeting Adjourns 7:14 pm !!NEW WORLD RECORD!!

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: Feb 27, 2004

318 Cheatham Hall 7:15 pm

Officers' Reports: None

Mailbag:

Va Cellars, Some CD Disk offer, an article on RATS (rapid energy transfer systems).

Committee Reports:

Program - Stepping down, needs a replacement
What's the deal with supply committee?

Program: None

Announcements:

Bill H. had free gear and some carbide lamps for sale

Chris M. - Organizing a TAG trip

M. Cole - Smokehole needs a fence repair.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Trip Reports: 11 trips reported

Trip Plans:

Fifi aka P. Balister - Elvisgrotto bolting trip.

Sandy - James cave

C. Michie - Surveying in Giles (closed)

J. Deighan - Cavin' somewhere no drilling or surveying required.

Speleo-seminar: Booker and McCarter's

VPI Cave Club Minutes

Date: March 19, 2004

Officers' Reports:

President: Elections next week
New LED lamps are available for checkout (new checkout sheets)
Treasurer: \$5,384 Liquid \$17,117 Total

Mailbag: Duck highschool Popsicle oxycontin babyfood; WV caver - Red Panda tooth discovered; Hunsville; SNEWS - Landcruisers and Bob Cohen

Committee Reports: Program is stepping down. Club store is here again

Program: Lepera suprisingly not sucking as he talks about failing to climb mountains in Mexico

Announcements:

Kirk = Carbide Lamps for Sale
Dave C. - Play in Roanoke
Travis - Party at his house Saturday at 8pm

Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1) C. Michie - Wants club to endorse J.C. Links for VAR Landowner award. Fifi Seconds. Passes by acclamation.
- 2) C. Michie - Wants support for the Trog cataloging project. Fifi seconds. Tabled
- 3) Pam Mohr nominates Chris Lee for membership. M. Eisenbies seconded. Passed. VPI#399.
- 4) Scott Rapier nominates Rob Story for membership. P. Balister seconded. Passed. VPI#400.
- 5) Pam Mohr nominates Brian McCarter for membership. S. LePera seconds. Passed. VPI#401.

Trip Reports: 9 trips reported. Many TAG pits bopped by Michie as well as some promising finds in Giles by Michie and D. Anderson.

Trip Plans:

Travis - Dig and push
Dave C. - Bone-Norman for seminar on how to get unlost in a cave.
Michie - Dig and Survey (closed)
Wells - German Caver coming Sunday. Dig and push Saturday

Speleo-seminar: Michie's