

The Coot & Holler Gazette

Progressive News of the Old Timers Reunion

Vol 22 #1 Thursday, August 31, 2023



Welcome to the 72nd Old Timers Reunion! Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to put together a great event for you this year. If this is your first OTR, we'd like to extend a very special welcome to you as an OTR Virgin. Be sure to pick up a Virgin Guidebook at the Bonfire Lighting on Thursday evening. This guidebook is a great way map to help you make the most of your OTR experience. If you miss the opening Bonfire Lighting, find me for your guide or pick up at Registration or Cooters.



OTR has too many great events to list here. But, talk to your neighbors, check back here throughout the weekend, or get your official OTR Guidebook at Registration for a full schedule of events. Whether its contests, music, or just general fellowship, there's something for everyone at OTR.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers. EVERYTHING that happens at OTR happens because of a dedicated volunteer. As Chairman, I am blessed to have such a dedicated team supporting me. The volunteers in this organization are the true substance of this entire event, and we would not have an OTR without them! Be sure to take a moment to thank a volunteer when the opportunity arises.

Ben Mirabile
72nd OTR Chair

Thursday

Noon, OTR opens and welcomes all cavers in celebration of our 72nd Reunion

Noon – 12 am, Registration Open

Noon—4 pm Merchandise Sales open

Noon, Cooters Pub opens the taps for OTR 2023

Noon – 4pm, OTR Museum Open

Noon— Sauna Opens

Noon— Poster Contest, Scavenger Hunt, and OTR Trivia & Cave Quiz Contests begins (forms can be picked up at Registration)

6 –7:30pm Opening Ceremony/Memorial Tribute, Memorial Garden

8pm - Welcoming of OTR Virgins, Bonfire

8:30pm, - Lighting of the Bonfire

Dusk (around 8:30pm OTR time) - Movie, Crawl-In Theater

9pm – midnight, Grateful Gary performs, Pavilion

9:30pm—OTR Virgin & Sponsor Reception, Event Tent

2am—Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)

4am - Sauna Closes

****Due to illness, Friday's Paint and Sip will be cancelled**

****Please take your camp trash to the dumpsters not to the trash containers placed in the pavilion and around the site.**

****Cooters will be closed from 2-5 pm on Sunday due to lack of volunteers. See Sydney for info on training!**

In Memorium

Please join us in the Memorial Garden for at 6pm our opening ceremony and Memorial Tribute to TRA family and friends who have passed since our last Reunion. The Lutz Rock Memorial Garden is a quiet place to sit and reflect. There are plaques with engraved plates of the names of those who we have honored.



2023 Honorees

Ken Carter

Doug Chadwick

Susan Cole

Bill English

Bob Gulden

Eric Hahn

John Huftalen

Karen Kastning

Gordy Ley

Ackie Loyd

Bucky Mock

Brian Preaux

G Thomas Rea

Ray Sira

Marion O. Smith

Al Stewart

Ann Underwood

Eberhard Warner

Daniel E. Yellets

New Decontamination (Decon) Area

Thanks to the 2023 NSS Convention, there is a new Decontamination (Decon) Area behind the Shower House. After your Cave trips and before your next one, be sure to clean your clothing and equipment to help stop the spread of White Nose Syndrome. Made possible by a grant from the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI).

Thursday evening 9:30 ish.

Is this your FIRST time at OTR??? Around here, we refer to first time attendees as OTR Virgins. Trust me, no one forgets their first year here! So be PROUD to call yourself a VIRGIN! We've got a special Invitation JUST FOR YOU!

Please join us for a Special Welcoming Reception for OTR Virgins and their Sponsors Thursday evening around 9-:30sh at the Event Tent. The Event Tent located at the end of Vendor's Row. Things will start rolling right after the Bonfire Ceremony where you are officially welcomed and you receive your Virgin Guide.

Come meet and greet some of OTR's core staff and resources and get some signatures for that Virgin Guide. You'll meet other Virgins, maybe plan some cave trips, and have some light refreshments. Many people report meeting the very best of people at OTR for lifelong friendships.

We've Come a Long Way

By A J Kramer

Maryland Cave Survey trips in the late 60's would often include a jog over the state line to West Virginia. The drinking age was 18 and the beer was cheap, fine with us even at 3.2%. Years later, we'd stop at the Eagles in Davis or the Moose in Franklin for icy Iron City or Stroh's, but mostly we imported our own real beer by the case. It's different now. In 1994 Cardinal Brewing Company made the first non-brewpub craft brew in the state, and in 2009 when the 6% limit was raised to 12% the craft beer revolution took off. In 2019 it was raised to 15%.

OTR has a rich beer history. "Free" taps have been flowing since the 3.2 days, and in the '90s West Virginia Brewing Company attempted the miracle of unlimited micro-brew for only \$10. Amazed at cavers' thirst, Doug from Morgantown had to rethink his business plan. After trying four different ways to sell unlimited brew, he gave up and offered a punch card. In 1998 Kelley, Shack, and Ray tried selling Guinness across the lane from the free taps at the pavilion. They believed that "the caver with a sophisticated palate" would enjoy high-grade brew offered at a modest cost. Ray says that they considered Coots' Bar but settled on the "more classy" COOTERS. Brilliant! Featuring first class facilities and primo entertainment, COOTERS is now a tradition and a COOT in its own right. That said, free beer is hard to beat and naked beer runs still patronize the brew crew. Cold. Wet. Beer. The stuff of dreams.

Did you know...

Did you know that during the years of prohibition, physicians could write prescriptions for "Medicinal Spirits"?

In the spirit of reliving those years, Doktor Steve will offer almost free examinations. After a thorough evaluation and if your condition meets established criteria, attendees MIGHT be able to receive a "prescription" for Medicinal Spirits.

These prescriptions can only be filled during regular hours at the PAG Pharmacy with a valid prescription or from other PAG Pharmacists circulating at various times and locations. They will have a limited supply of Medicinal Spirits and MAY be able to fill your prescription.

So, you ask, where exactly is Doktor Steve's Exam room and Emporium? What are the regular office hours? How do I get an appointment? What conditions warrant a prescription for "medicinal spirits"?

Now, now...that would be telling. And Elliott Ness and them revenuers might show up! But you could start at PAG's generally last known location (found on Registration's site map and The Dome's Site map).

NO PRESCRIPTIONS WILL BE ISSUED TO ANY PERSON WITHOUT THE PROPER OVER 21 WRIST BAND/ID BADGE!

At the far end of Vendor's Row by the Event Tent is a bulletin board. Please feel free to post your Cave Trip and related details to invite people to join you. Not limited to Cave trips. If you're hiking, biking, kayaking, or running into town for groceries, this is a great place to leave your info and perhaps make a new friend at OTR! If you're looking for a trip or activity, put your want ad up, along with contact info and where you can be located.

What's up?

by Joel Jacobs

Last night was a blue moon, the second full moon of the month of August. Tonight, the moon will appear to be full and though it will begin to wane during our OTR weekend it will provide enough light to illuminate our campground as if a white beacon were placed there for our safety and convenience. This brilliance will overwhelm the naked eye and make the dimmer stars in constellations impossible to see. The Harvest Moon, sometimes called the Full Corn Moon, the one closest to the Autumnal Equinox, will occur on September 29th.

New for OTR 2023

Read the daily Coot and Holler with that first cup of coffee without leaving camp and submit personals by scanning this QR Code! Paper copies still will be available at Cooters and the Mailboxes at the Bulletin Boards and a box for those personal quips will be at Cooters.



Congratulations to Speleobooks, Emily Davis and Mike Warner on 50 years of service to Cavers here at OTR and around the world! ~Fang

If anyone was registered for a previous OTR and did not pick up merchandise, please come to registration for pickup. ~Bobbie & Kat

Bobbie and Kat extend grateful appreciation to our quick thinking preregistration folk for working to mitigate flooding in our building during Tuesday's deluge and thank our hardworking registration staff for all the prep to ready us for OTR.