

# The Coot & Holler Gazette

Progressive News of the Old Timers Reunion

Vol 22 #3 Saturday September 2nd, 2023



## A Nod to the Past, Present and Future

by AJ Kramer

By 1973 OTR had expanded from McCoy's Mill into Thorn Springs Park. Ever on the lookout for unique amusements, Gill Ediger and Jim Kramer backed up to the creek bank and unloaded the makings of a rudimentary sweat bath. Under the gazes of bemused onlookers, they built a 10' dome of saplings and plastic tarps. They started a fire and piled on stones. The curious increased in number and a few pitched in. When the stones were glowing, six or eight naked pioneers shoveled them inside, shut the flap, and poured on some water. Humidity and temperature spiked alarmingly. They stayed as long as they could, and then crawled out and plunged, hooting and laughing, into the water. Onlookers became participants—you had to work to steam—and it just grew. They dammed the creek so well that it flooded the dome, so the floor was raised with rocks. By Monday, hundreds of cavers had taken the plunge, often repeatedly.



Sauna 1973

Needless to say, the likes of Chuck Hempel, Tony Ryan, Barry Baumgardner, and Dale Ibberson showed up the next year with tools, innovations, and gusto. Therein lies the tale. For 50 years now, generations of inventors, craftsmen, technicians, sauna-kings, and innumerable grunts have labored – through fits and starts—on the evolution of OTR water sports. Saunas, hot tubs, and structures have come and gone, but the key elements of curiosity, cooperation, imagination, and sweat equity are the real fuel of this ongoing search for naked amusement. And it just gets better.

**Saturday Schedule \*\*\*Please note: Paint & Sip has been cancelled due to illness  
\*\*\*If you want to enter the official Speakeasy judging, please register your campsite at Contest HQ by 2pm on Saturday**

7:30am, OTR 5K, Campsite (Meet at the Front Gate)  
9am – 9pm, Registration Open  
9am – 5pm, Contests resume  
9am – 6pm Cave Kids Challenge  
9am – 10am, Sauna closed for cleaning  
10am – Noon, Textile Only Sauna  
11am, Cooters Pub Open (after the Doo-Dah Parade)  
11am – 4pm, OTR Museum Open  
11am, Batman the Magician, Pavilion  
Noon, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bubbles Fun Run, Pavilion  
Noon, The Raunchy River Jam!!, River Stage  
Noon – 3pm, Grateful Gary performs, Cooters Pub with Special Guest Ken Hensley with some classic songs from the Prohibition Era on his keyboard  
12:30pm, Children's Activities (after Batman the Magician),

Pavilion  
1pm, Town Hall Meeting, Pavilion  
1pm, TRA Long Range Planning Committee Meeting, Cooter-ville  
2pm Cave Rescue and You presented by ER-NCRC at the Event Tent  
3-5pm OTR Merchandise Sales Open  
4pm History of The Robertson Association presented by Kelley Deem at the Event Tent  
6:00pm, Evening Doo-Dah Parade followed by the 1920's Prohibition Speakeasy Crawl and Contest  
6:30 pm WV Speleological Survey Fall Business Meeting at the Event Tent  
8pm, Brew Crew Opens, Pavilion  
Dusk (around 8:30pm OTR time), Movie, Crawl-In Theater  
8:30pm – Midnight, Queen City Funk and Soul performs, Pavilion  
2am, Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)  
2am, Last Call at Brew Crew  
4am, Sauna Closes

### "Cave Rescue and You"

At the Events Tent, Saturday, September 2, at 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered "Why didn't I get called out for a cave rescue?" or "What do I have to do to be part of a cave rescue effort?" This session, organized by the Eastern Region-NCRC, will include a series of short presentations from caving group's, cave rescue teams, and the ER-NCRC to explain what you can do to get on your groups callout list, what training would be useful, how to join a cave rescue team, and how the ER-NCRC's TexCom Alerting System works. There will also be time for Q & A.

### Decon Station

When you return from your cave trip and need your gear to be decontaminated, find Jim Forsythe at TAFO. TAFO is located behind Speleobooks with the Pirate Flag. If you cannot find Jim, ask Security to track him down.

## "Cave Rescue and You"

At the Events Tent, Saturday, September 2, at 2:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered "Why didn't I get called out for a cave rescue?" or "What do I have to do to be part of a cave rescue effort?"

This session, organized by the Eastern Region-NCRC, will include a series of short presentations from caving group's, cave rescue teams, and the ER-NCRC to explain what you can do to get on your groups callout list, what training would be useful, how to join a cave rescue team, and how the ER-NCRC's TexCom Alerting System works. There will also be time for Q & A.

### Monochromatic Sketching Art Walk

hosted by Carolina Shrewsbury

Saturday 10:00 am starting at

The Event Tent!

10.00 including art tools

### Friends of Bill W



Meet at the event tent Saturday, 11:00 PM  
Sharp!



### More Pieces of the OTR Puzzle

by Joel Jacobs

The rocking music of Captain Bob and the Screamin' Seamen. (See them perform on the stage across from Scumbury Heights on Saturday night.) WV/PSU on two wide screens at Scumbury Heights beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. The red, neon flashing lights at the entrance to the Dead Puppies Grotto encampment. Well placed limestone gravel patches on the byways here at OTR. Friends, new & old. Stop at any campfire. Make more friends.

### #RIPFlipPhone

Since Bill Bradwell bid farewell to his trusty flip phone, it seems like he's transformed into a walking encyclopedia. It's as if the mere act of parting with his old device unleashed a torrent of wisdom. Now, he's the go-to person for all things tech and beyond, proving that sometimes, upgrading your phone can also upgrade your knowledge!  
#RIPFlipPhone



### What's up? by Joel Jacobs

The pole star can be found by imagining a line extending off the two stars at the end of the big dipper; Merak and Dubhe. Hold still and stare at the second star in the dipper's handle. This was rumored to be a Spartan eye test because it is actually two stars; Mizar and Alcor. You could try finding them with binoculars which would allow you to see that Mizar is also a double. And you could find them through a paper towel tube which might make them more distinct. Everything in space is moving. Humans cannot notice that, but in ancient Greece the constellations would have appeared slightly akilter from what you see tonight and in 2,000 years Polaris will not be the north star.

**\*\*\*Please do not move or take the trash cans cans from the Pavilion, Cooters, the shower houses, etc. They are placed where TRA/OTR wants them. DTW (Dirty Deeds)\*\*\***

Renew your NSS membership or join the NSS here onsite at Speleobooks on Vendors row. ~ Emily Davis

Renew or join the Northeastern Cave Conservancy at the NCC booth or Speleobooks, both on vendors row. ~ Mike Warner

Come see the Awesome Dawsons and brave the OBSACLE COURSE during daylight hours. SBW

Happy OTR everyone!!!! The Roarin' 20s!! Excellent theme, superb staff, great TRA and site team as always but definitely a butt kickin' chairman that deserves this OTR! Have a absolute blast Ben! I know you have the best OTR ever planned for everyone there! Shout out to members of The Zoo too of course!! ~ Jeff Bray

Mike Reeps memorial is the 16th of September in Stafford Va. 1739 Richmond Hwy Stafford, Va. 22554 all from OTR are welcome! Please RSVP to 540-717-7514, Kim Reep

Happy OTR anniversary to my sweet Mr. Bill. It has been a great 24 years, let's keep it going another 24. Love you gobs!  
Lynne Smith

George Dasher will be autographing copies of his fiction books at Speleobooks at 1 PM on Saturday.

SCUM Ridge Caving Club is hosting a Speakeasy Batty Photobooth after the Doo Dah Parade until the band starts playing. Props Provided and photos posted to the Old Timers Reunion Facebook Group ~AT

KUDOS to two of the best guys ever to attend and be part of OTR- DAVE AND DENNY! You ROCK! We love you! ~AN

Bring your clean & dry caving gear to Out Standing Stitches on Vendors Row for onsite repairs! ~ Lauren Leinbach