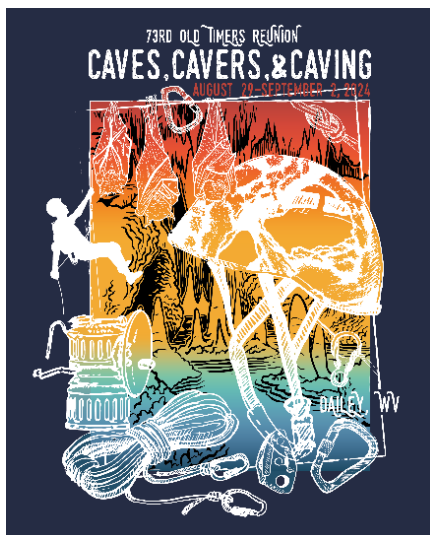


Message from the OTR Chairman

It's 2024 and we have a great OTR in the works! This year our theme is **Caves, Cavers, and Caving**. That's right, a CAVING-themed OTR. It's time to celebrate our common ground and all the interests that bring us together. We have a lot in store this year!

OTR has always been the perfect venue to razzle dazzle and show off your caving skills. This year, we're highlighting and celebrating everything subterranean with a **Caving Festival** at the Pavilion on Saturday afternoon. We're combining all the great OTR contests with live entertainment, free beer, and a whole gaggle of your closest caving friends all under one roof for a down dip base level master trunk free for all! Drink a cold beer courtesy of our Brew Crew, watch your caving BFF compete in the mechanical rope climbing contest. Sip your ice-cold oat soda, and cheer your grotto secretary through the OTR Obstacle course. Win the beer-chugging contest. Stand back, tap your



feet, and hum along to familiar favorites from Tim White and JB Stalnaker as well as our own Grateful Gary.

On the fancy and formal side, we are lining up a big time **Cave Prom** on Saturday night. It all starts with our **Homecoming Parade** (Yes, we know Prom and Homecoming are two different things). Participate or spectate—it's your choice! Sport your holeyest cave suit or your shiniest evening gown—it's all good. When night falls, get ready for a raucous speleo-spectacle. Dress up and be who you want to be:

- Cave divers, gear sherpas, bat counters, cave queens*
- Cave diggers, crawl pushers, cave mappers, cave fiends*
- Cave gaters, paint scrapers, disto operators*
- With two lights to spare,*
- Young bucks and old farts*
- Who cave from armchairs*

However you decide to show up, just show up and dance the night away with our 2024 Headliner, Driftwood.

Any questions, please contact us at otr2024@otr.org.

Arrival and Departure: OTR 2024 begins on Thursday, August 29. Gates open at noon, and we will do everything we can to get you through registration quickly. The line of cars that forms outside of the gate prior to noon is a traffic hazard, so please be considerate of our neighbors and try to arrive after the noon gate opening. **OTR closes at noon on Monday, September 2.** The only people permitted to be on the site before and after OTR are those who have received permission in advance to support setup or cleanup.

Preregistration: opens in early July at <https://otr.org/>.

Onsite Registration: Registration is open Thursday from 12:00 noon to 11:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM–9:00 PM, and Sunday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. OTR closes completely to new registrants and guests at 4:00 PM on Sunday. **Note that guests may NOT check in onsite until their sponsor has checked in.**

2024 OTR Registration Fees				
Arrival Day	Adult 18+	Junior 12-17	Child 3-11	Guest fee
Preregistration	\$60	\$47	\$37	+\$20
Thursday	\$60	\$47	\$37	+\$20
Friday	\$58	\$45	\$35	+\$20
Saturday	\$56	\$43	\$33	+\$20
Sunday	\$50	\$37	\$30	+\$20
<i>Infants under 3 years are permitted free entry. A 'Day' begins at 4 AM</i>				

Day Passes: Day passes are good for the day purchased from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. All day passes must be paid by credit card. If you stay past 4:00 PM, your day pass will be converted to a full registration, and your payment method will be charged accordingly. Regardless of the length of your stay, **day passes are \$10**, which includes a non-refundable insurance surcharge.

Memorial Registration: New this year! We all have loved ones who are no longer with us in body but still attend OTR in spirit. Make that spirit tangible and honor their memory by purchasing a **Memorial Registration for \$25**. You will receive a special color name badge that you can wear with your name badge. Use it as a conversation starter to share good memories!

OTR Merchandise: OTR merch is available through preregistration and onsite at OTR. This year's featured merch includes t-shirts, stickers, collectible pins, a customized caver Nalgene bottle, and an OTR bandana that you won't want to miss – all with fantastic logos designed by the talented Amanda Willis! Quantities are limited, so order with your preregistration to guarantee that you get what you want!

Guests: Guests are welcome at OTR, when invited and sponsored by a TRA regular member. TRA regular members may sponsor up to five adult guests. Guests of all ages (except infants) pay the regular registration fee plus a \$20 guest surcharge. Family companions 18 and older are considered guests unless they are TRA members. Non-adult guests must be children of adult sponsors, or the adult sponsor must provide proof of guardianship. We cannot permit entry to guests under 18 who are not lawfully in the custody of their adult sponsors. Legal verification may be required. **Please choose your guests carefully.** This is a cavers' event; please invite only cavers or other outdoor enthusiasts. **Note that guests cannot check in onsite until their sponsor has checked in.**

Children of TRA Members: Children of TRA members up to the age of 17 are not considered guests and do not pay the guest surcharge. Children who are active cavers may apply for their own membership (\$10) at <http://membership.otr.org>.

Photo ID: **You must provide legal photo ID at registration**, even if you do not intend to consume any alcoholic beverages on site. The OTR staff is authorized to request and see ID of any individual on-site. You **MUST** be 21 or older to consume any alcoholic beverages on-site; staff may ask for validation at any time.

Checks: OTR accepts cash or checks written in US funds and on US banks. OTR charges \$30 on returned checks and reports nonpaying registrants to the authorities. Credit cards are also accepted.

Pets: Pets are NOT permitted at OTR, including at the gate area or chained to or inside vehicles at the gate.

TRA Membership: If you wish to become a member of TRA, the deadline for submission is **July 31**. The applications for downloading and printing can be found at <https://otr.org/about/membership/>. We are currently working on an online application process; however, it may not be ready before the deadline. If you have any questions about the process, please see the website <https://otr.org/> or email Scott Baker, Membership Secretary, at membership@otr.org.

Music at OTR: OTR Entertainment is pleased to announce yet another most excellent musical lineup! Thursday, we welcome our own talented "Chicago Caver of Sound," Grateful Gary, as he crawls and lines through the likes of Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead; 9 PM to midnight in the Pavilion. Friday, our "Celtic Cavers," The Shanty Irish Band, will be excavating sing-along Irish Pub songs, opening up a new passageway to merriment and mirth; 5 PM to 7 PM at Cooters. Friday night, our "Caver Band from Ohio," Jake Dunn and the Blackbirds, bring an underground alternative rock vibe to our event in a way that belays and belies a subterranean sensibility; 9 PM to midnight in the Pavilion. Saturday afternoon sees Grateful Gary returning to the stage, followed by our own JB Stalnaker and Tim White, filling the cavern of the OTR Pavilion with melodic echoes at the "Caving FESTIVAL." Saturday night, hailing from Binghamton, New York, our hugely popular headliner band Driftwood is on rope in the Pavilion from 9 PM to midnight, expanding on "Plato's Allegory of the Cave" by educating us past the shadows of ignorance into a realm of musical artistry that emerges us all into the light of day. Sunday afternoon, Derek and the boys from The Platescrapers swarm in like bats from Virginia and Western Maryland to the Tygart River as the accomplished bluegrass banshees that they are; 2 PM to 5 PM on the River Stage. Filling the Sunday evening slot in the Pavilion will be our own Buzz City, once again convening for the benefit of the Med Tent (and all of us) as we fittingly join them in rounding out an "OTR Caver Weekend" for the ages.

Contests: The Speleo-Olympics at OTR allows attendees to test their unique skills commonly used underground. Various contests are offered throughout the event, including vertical contests, an obstacle course, lamp assembly, and even a beer-drinking contest. This year some retired contests will be making an appearance. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Even if you don't plan to compete, come watch! Contests make a great spectator sport!

DooDah Parade: The DooDah parade has been going on since we moved to our current site and offers a fabulous display of the zaniness and creativity of OTR's diverse attendees. This year's DooDah Parade will be a Homecoming Parade held in the EVENING to kick off another night of OTR fun as spectators wait and watch to see just what is coming around the corner. Beads? Potions? Flashes (of light, or of brilliance)? Who would like to see the Grotto rivalry continue? Start planning now!

Event Tent: Started in 2017 as a venue to bring caving-related events and presentations to OTR, the Event Tent has taken off! Since its inception, offerings have included a virgin reception, yoga for cavers, paint and sip classes, speleoprintmaking, lightning talks, and presentations on various cave-related topics including cave rescue, cave photography, and the History of OTR. This year, we have a special presentation by Ray Garton on WV fossils and how WV cavers have contributed to discoveries. We would also like to invite OTR grant awardees to share their work with us.

Introduction of the Virgins: Bring out your grotto virgins (first-time OTR attendees) for a warm introduction at the Bonfire Lighting on Thursday evening. We will honor them and hand out copies of our "OTR Virgin Guide," which contains a series of fun quests to help familiarize them with our beloved gathering of cavers. After the Bonfire Lighting, head over to the Event Tent for a special OTR Virgin Reception!

Kids' Activities: As always, the Kiddie Korral will be up and running to keep your kids entertained! Batman, the magician will be back to wow the young ones. Many contests are open to children, and children are welcome at the all-ages art and craft sessions at the Event Tent.

Vendors: If you wish to sell anything at OTR, you must make prior arrangements with the Vendor Coordinator, Dave Fricke (caverdavef@gmail.com). Wednesday is setup day for vendors; please don't arrive earlier. Greg Miller will again provide food concessions throughout the day and late into the night. All vendors selling food or beverages may be visited by the Health Department's inspectors and must be set up and ready for inspection when the inspector arrives.

Caving at OTR: White Nose Syndrome (WNS) continues to be a problem in the region. Many caves with significant bat population are closed because of it. OTR does not organize caving trips, so if you do go caving, please check the closed cave list first. If you are planning on caving during OTR, please practice proper cave gear disinfection procedures before and after entering caves in the area. Be sure to let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Please complete a Caver Information Form before you go; forms can be found at Registration and on the Information boards throughout the campground. As always practice safe caving. Closed cave list: <https://tinyurl.com/closedcaves>

Awards Ceremony: The awards ceremony is held on Sunday evening and includes presentations of TRA awards, contest awards, election results, door prizes, and a preview of OTR 2025.

Volunteers: OTR happens because of its many volunteers. We can always use help with the many different tasks before, during, and after OTR. Some areas requiring help are Registration, Gate, First Aid, Sauna, Audio/Video, IT, Contests, daily shower cleaning, trash collection, Wild Side, Security, Cooters, and Brew Crew. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, see the volunteer page on <https://otr.org/> for more information and contacts.

**Remember, OTR is a caver event --
Please sponsor only cavers or other outdoor enthusiasts!**



DAILEY, WEST VIRGINIA

This information may be distributed to NSS grottoes, caving clubs, cave conservancies, and individual cavers only.

Note that all information presented here is subject to change