

Coot & Holler Gazette

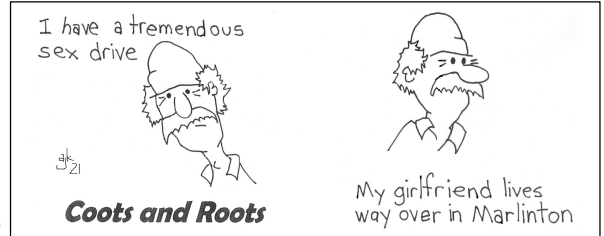
Vol. 23, No. 4, Sunday, September 1, 2024

Submit material to cootnholler@otr.org by 4 p.m. daily.
Or drop a written blurb in the box at Cooters.



Today's Schedule (Typically, the C&H schedule is most accurate.)

8 a.m. Gathering of Believers (Memorial Garden)
8–9 a.m. Yoga for Cavers (Event Tent)
8–10 a.m. Decontamination Station open
9 a.m.–1 p.m. OTR Yard Sale (Pavilion)
9–11 a.m. OTR Merchandise Sales-at Yard Sale (Pavilion)
9 a.m.–4 p.m. TRA Elections (Pavilion)
9 a.m.–4 p.m. Registration office open
9:30 a.m.–noon The Robertson Association Board Meeting (Event Tent)
10 a.m. Sauna opens
12 noon–4 p.m. OTR Museum open
12 noon OTR Winemakers Guild (near First Aid)
1 p.m. Cooters Pub opens
2–5 p.m. River Party: Live music: The Plate Scrapers 🎵🎵 (Tygart River)
7–9 p.m. Decontamination Station open
8 p.m. TRA/OTR Awards Ceremony (Pavilion)
8 p.m. Brew Crew opens (Pavilion)
10 p.m. Band Aide live music: 🎵 Buzz City 🎵 (Pavilion)
12 a.m. Last Call at Brew Crew (Pavilion)
12 a.m. Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)
4 a.m. Sauna closes for OTR 2024



Monday, Sept. 2, 2024

12 noon OTR 2024 concludes: See y'all next year! (Please take ALL TRASH to the dumpsters!)

Event Tent Schedule for Today (See full schedule at <https://otr.org/event-info/otr-2019-entertainment-event-schedule/event-tent-schedule/>.) The Event Tent is located at the end of Vendor's Row. \$\$\$=Fee or donation!

8 a.m.–9 a.m.

Hatha Yoga for Cavers with Emilee Goodman. This gentle yoga practice helps revitalize the body and mind to promote overall strength and well-being. We will focus on poses that encourage strength, flexibility, balance, and relaxation. This class is appropriate for all ages and fitness levels! Please bring a yoga mat or towel as well as some water.

9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. (noon)

The Robertson Association (TRA) Business Meeting. All TRA members are welcome to attend. Bring a chair (not Ben, but an actual chair you can sit in).

A Classic Tale of a Work Weekend by AJ Goslin

It was the late 1990s. Probably '97. Kelley Deem contacted Standing Stone (known as the UNIT) to take on a little concrete project at the med hooch. We show up to do a little light digging to expand the smaller original pad to the size of the building. We toiled, moving soil and gravel, and formed this new pad. Mike Oatney was our leader and the concrete showed up early that Saturday morning. Despite my arm being disabled slightly by a recent spider bite, we sat there and waited to finish. Rob Stevens and I were there and proceeded to polish off the Milwaukee's Best. In true OTR fashion, we helped each other reach across and put on the final touches. By the time we were finished, we could barely stand, not from the work but from the beer. We probably ended our day in the river with more beers. But one of my earliest memories of OTR work. Today that concrete still serves the med hooch with plenty of memories cast in its stone. Many thanks to the legendary UNIT, whose dedication is unsurpassed to this day!

Everything Passes, Everything Changes . . . Or Does It? ajk 2024

After Tony Ryan and Gunther Schmidt first took me through Schoolhouse, I tried to tell the people at work what I'd done. It was a waste of breath. Cave exploring is essentially unknowable to outsiders. Now, over 50 years later, my old caving mentors' exploits are largely forgotten. I am not here to cave anymore, but to remember—to touch bases with the quick and the dead. Our lives as cavers can be shared here. That's why it's a reunion.

A few hard-core, single-minded, very lucky individuals have managed to keep at it, exploring the world's karst regions and amassing once unimaginable caving resumes. They buck the odds and carry on. The rest of us party on as best we can. The ghosts come to us in the smoke of the campfire, in the Buzz City sound track, in the steam of the sauna, and the curling of the river. They haunt the rustling shelter of the Wild Side, the shadows at the corner of the pavilion where we used to meet to have a smoke, the descending bubbles of a chilly Guinness.

Our grotto campsite is smaller. The Lutz Memorial Rock has way too many names, and what used to be a rag-tag collection of tents in a field looks like an RV dealership at a county fair. It's a bit disconcerting at times, but never for long. OTR traditions seem to live on, evolve, and thrive. We all pitch in. We hang out where we want to, do what we want to do, or we do nothing at all, but never alone.

What's Up? (9/1/24) by Joel Jacobs

Cassiopeia was the beautiful queen of Ethiopia. Her daughter Andromeda was saved by Perseus from being sacrificed to a sea monster. You can find her by looking for an imperfect W opposite the Big Dipper and equidistant from Polaris. Those three constellations are situated fairly close together in the night skies. Cetus, the creature, sometimes called a whale, has its own spot in the heavens. A giant supernova, observed by the famous Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe appeared there in 1572. Though about 25 novae occur within our galaxy in a year's time, Tycho's Star was one of only four recorded supernovae in the past millennium. It was visible to the naked eye for several weeks.

The White Dome and Chris Long by Joel Jacobs

C&H: Tell me about the White Dome.

Chris: I created the White Dome for the express purpose of bringing community space to OTR as a way of giving back. I set it up and you guys (cavers) fill it.

C&H: So, it's here for anyone to use?

Chris: Yes, daytime activities may include NSS chapter meetings, memorial services, bachelorette parties, yoga, and fitness classes. Nights are dominated by various grottos hosting Dome takeover parties. Whatever group reserves the space sets the access policy.

C&H: I look up to the south. The sun is casting shadows of shaking leaves on the bright white skin of the Dome. Beautiful! Tell us a little about the construction and design.

Chris: The design was made by Googling "geodesic dome calculator" to find strut lengths. It's 38 feet in diameter and made of 250 struts of one inch EMT conduit cut to six different lengths and forming 91 vertices.

C&H: We've heard about nudity on the dance stage at night. Is there a lot of that?

Chris: Some women remove their tops to dance. Very seldom, maybe once a year, a dancer will perform naked to a single song and that's about it. It's pretty limited.

C&H: I look around at the blue hammocks hung from the struts. So the Dome is basically a party waiting to happen?

Chris: The OTR community is encouraged to use the Dome for their own activities with permission. At night it's a floor dance party. Come in, take a look, if it suits you, fine. If not, then you should leave.

C&H: It's a great space.

Chris: The Dome is a unique environment that offers a lot to those who fully join in.

C&H: I think I speak for most of us when I say thanks for providing it.

Announcements and Personals

- **Contest Participants:** Certificates and Cave Bucks can be picked up at the Contest Shed from 1–3 p.m. If Certificates and Cave Bucks are not picked up at that time, they will be distributed at the Awards Ceremony.
- **Hydration Fairy** is on duty for OTR 2024! The backpack keg contains 100% blue Gatorade, always alcohol- and drug-free! Be smart, be safe, and stay hydrated, my friends! ~Hope Brooks
- It's been **another fun-filled OTR**. I hope y'all enjoyed reading the *Coot & Holler Gazette*. Please let me know how you would do it differently for next year. Thanks for your submissions. ~Meredith
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to all the award winners! Come to the **TRA/OTR Awards Ceremony TONIGHT** at 8 p.m. in the pavilion. Bring a chair!
- **Thank you, Meredith**, for taking over the *Coot & Holler*! You've done a GREAT JOB THIS YEAR!
- **Thanks** for the Amazing Beer at the Brew Krewe! Great choices this year!
- **HUGE THANKS** to Cindy M and Dave F for being the best Event Tent hosts!
- **Support the freedom** of textile sauna volunteers to provide & govern their own textile sauna. Contact Brad Smith, 1speleonauts@revealed.net
- **KIDNEY DONOR NEEDED.** To hear her story or get more information, see Gloria Freeland at Standing Stone Grotto.
- **OTR would be a sad event** indeed if we didn't have Dave & Denny; thank you, Dirty Deeds! We love you!
- **Opportunity Knocks!!!!** Have you been putting off that new bathroom addition because of the huge expense of remodeling? Why wait, **you can have your very own Porta John** used here at OTR. For the low sum of \$100, you can add that extra toilet to you Backyard Entertainment Center, Man Cave, She Shed, or Garage at a fraction of the cost of remodeling. A limited quantity of 4 units is currently available and can be seen in the Camper Storage Area. So do not wait until it is too late to get the first pick and the deal of a life time. See JV, Ben M., or Tim B. Unit must be paid for now and is available for pick up on Monday or must be removed from the site by October 1st.
- **Repeat guests** at OTR: Why are you still paying extra money to come to OTR as a guest? Join TRA soon! And don't wait until next July to send in your application!
- Anybody interested in the **1950 Society**, please leave your name and contact info at Cooters. Fox will be in touch.
- **Winemakers Guild & Beermaking:** Tasting and Discussion, 12 noon today. Please bring a chair. [near First Aid, according to the guidebook]
- **Little Miss:** I hope you had a great prom!
- I know it was really hard, but I am **soooo happy you are here**. Seka, Bexley, Brixton. Love you, Mama and GaGa. ~Lynnie Pie
- **Prom Court Winners:** Cave Gods—Deb Mixon & Gary Gaskins; Jesters—Philip Balister, Jeremy Browning, Cody "Bozo" Maurin, and Matt "Dozer" Watton. Congratulations! Money from the voting is going towards the purchase of fireworks for the 75th OTR in 2 years. Donations are welcome!
- Missed the deadline? Aww too bad. **Today's issue is the last** one during the event. **However**, if you want to send in more personals for an "after event" issue, please do! I'm thinking about doing a wrap-up C&H in a week or so.
- Join us next year at OTR 2025, where we'll go **down the rabbit hole** and celebrate **Cavers in Wonderland!** Enter an enchanting world of whimsy and wonder full of curious characters and delightful games. The Mad Hatter's Tea Party awaits, the Cheshire Cat's grin beckons, and the Queen of Hearts' croquet game is set. Let your imagination run wild with your costumes and camp decorations! We can't wait to see you in Wonderland!
- Please clean up your campsite & take all camp trash to the dumpsters! Be careful getting home. See y'all next year!