

Coot & Holler Gazette

Vol. 24, No. 4, Sunday, August 31, 2025

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



OTR Schedule SUNDAY

8 a.m.	Gathering of Believers; Memorial Garden
8–9 a.m.	Yoga for Cavers; Event Tent
9 a.m.–1 p.m.	OTR Yard Sale; Pavilion
9–11 a.m.	OTR Merchandise Sales; Pavilion
9 a.m.–4 p.m.	TRA Elections; Pavilion
9 a.m.–4 p.m.	Registration office open
9:30 a.m.–Noon	TRA Board Meeting; Event Tent
10 a.m.	OTR Quilters Guild Meeting; Cooters
10 a.m.	Sauna opens
Noon	Cutoff for 50-50 raffle tix sales; Registration
Noon–9 p.m.	Decontamination Station open
Noon–2 p.m.	OTR Fermenters Forum; Event Tent
Noon–4 p.m.	OTR Museum open
1 p.m.	Cooters Pub opens
2–5 p.m.	River Party - live music: The Jugbusters; Tygart River
8 p.m.	TRA/OTR Awards Ceremony; Pavilion
8 p.m.	Brew Crew opens; Pavilion
10 p.m.	'Band Aide' live music benefit: Buzzzzz City; Pavilion
Midnight	Last Call at Brew Crew
Midnight	Last Call at Cooters Pub (may close earlier)
4 a.m.	Sauna closes for OTR 2025

OTR Schedule MONDAY

Noon	OTR 2025 concludes. Please deposit all trash in the dumpsters located along the road on your way out (—please take all recyclables with you) and leave the property by Noon.
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Yoga for Cavers (8–9 a.m.) *Emilee Goodman*—See description in Saturday's *Coot & Holler*.

The Robertson Association (TRA) Business Meeting (9:30 a.m.–noon)

All TRA members are welcome to attend. Bring a chair.

OTR Fermenters' Forum (Noon–2 p.m.) *Hosted by Bob & Carly Oehler*

Do you ferment fantastic wines or mead? Do you brew beer with bravado? Come one, come all to the newly formed OTR Fermenters' Forum. Over the years, OTR has had wine-making contests and beer-making events, but never together under one roof. Join us at the Event Tent Sunday at noon for a 2-hour tasting and discussion on everything and anything that comes to mind. Please bring two bottles of wine or beer for the tasting. As we taste, we will talk about that specific beverage. If we have time, we'll sample other wines or beers that can be shared. Bring extras for trading. Bring lawn chairs. If you want to pitch in crackers or snacks, just bring them the day of the event. We will provide sample cups.

Crawl-In Theater (@ Dusk, Weather Permitting)

Sunday: *How to Train Your Dragon—The Hidden World*, 104 minutes

Stop by and **visit with the National Speleological Society!** Join the world's largest organization dedicated to caves, caving, and cavers! Renew your membership. Shop for NSS gear and books. OTR Special deal—\$40 for author-signed "Caving Legends" book bundle, *Vertical Bill* and *Lew Bicking*. A great gift for all the cavers you love!

Please acknowledge **Robert (Bob) Robins' birthday on September 1st**. This is his 65th trip to OTR, not counting 2 years closed for Covid. ~Thanks Randi Jenkins, his SO

- **To the Zoo** for your care and camaraderie through the week, with deepest appreciation from the Vice Chairman
- **Struggle Bus**, I love you most and appreciate you to the moon and back, your biggest fan
- This was so much fun; **Let's do it again NEXT YEAR!** Please have a happy, safe remainder of your year and see you at OTR 2026—the 75th Gathering of the Old Timers Reunion!
- **Happy Birthday**, you old TOOT, Robbie! ~Thom (I think, hard to read signature)
- Please move your picnic tables to gravel area in overflow camping prior to departing. It is your responsibility to move them. They also burn! ~B.B.
- Trash cans are **not for camp trash**. Take your camp trash to the dumpsters please.
- Proper porta john etiquette is to close the lid when you're done. It keeps the smell and flies down.

Buzzzzz City Grotto's Limited Edition 3-CD Set

Buzzzzz City has created a three CD special edition set of their greatest hits (Hint: ALL their music is GREAT!) and they're offering a few LUCKY winners their own sets this year at OTR!

Tickets can be purchased at Buzzzzz City, First Aid, and other locations around the site. Cost is \$3 or 2/\$5. OR \$20 for an arm length!

Drawing will be held Sunday night, in the Pavilion at BandAide! Must be present to win! Or someone you know is present but this will be so awesome they may not ever actually give it to ya!



- Thanks to Santa Jim for the new doors. Thanks, Brandy and Sara B. for all the help.
- ***BREAKING NEWS*** New pH found in Chris' Hole. We are calling it Hot Hole due to the spicy bottom.
- Little Miss: OTR gets better every year since you have come into my world. ~Hansome
- Someone walked off with my pants and wallet from the hot tub. Please turn them into Security. ~Tim Prince
- Thanks to Todd & Diane for taking Jonathan to his first cave!! He had a blast!!!
- Sidney, Colin, and the Cooters volunteers: Thank you for your effort and hard work. Cooters exists because of your passion.
- Shout out to the 1st Aid Crew for all their work here, and especially for their amazing synchronized non-swimming show!
- Sharon is willing to do more cookie decorations if there is an interest today. Check at Cooters.
- Welcome to all the TAG Fall Cave-In refugees. We hope you enjoy OTR. Come on back, y'hear?
- Help OTR get a self-governed textile sauna. Join the "Stewards of the Textile Sauna." [702-585-4565](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0FJYMY4GC/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r)
- **Lost kitty?** Or is it a barn cat? There's a stray cat hanging out near the gate.

SAVVY RADIO MANAGERS NEEDED!

The TRA Radio System needs a few kind & reasonably skilled folks to set up & issue the radios, with modest coaching & troubleshooting as needed. OJT is available. Please contact TRA Radio Krewe Chief Gene Harrison. [702-585-4565](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0FJYMY4GC/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r) https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0FJYMY4GC/ref=atv_dp_share_cu_r If you loved this year's theme, check out "Waltz"(new independent horror/thriller film with a twisted Wonderland theme). Now streaming on Amazon. ~Dave

I Can't Tell If I'm Warm Or Chilly

We can't do anything about the weather, but we sure as hell talk about it. There was a time when a caver wouldn't think about coming to OTR without a down coat. In '76 I crawled out of my mummy bag to find ice in the coffee pot and the grass white with hoarfrost. But no more. Now it is typhoons, floods, or tropical heat. On this crazy flood plain, we deal with legendary adversity and party on. "Hey, it's OTR!"

Everyone seems to believe that this year will be temperate, dry, and sunny, with warm gentle breezes and cool nights, potentially the finest weather in modern OTR recollection. Is it possible, or have we passed through a climate looking glass? I brought my rain slicker, of course, and I also threw in a down jacket. It's still OTR. ~ Ajk 25

What's Up? (8/31/25) by Joel Jacobs

A **constellation** is a cluster of stars that relate to each other, such as Sagittarius, the Archer, which resembles a teapot with the spout on the right and the handle on the left. Look south for it immediately after sunset. To the right of it, find its celestial neighbor Scorpio with its bright red star Antares. An **asterism** is a group of stars that are seen as making up a recognizable, astronomical phenomena such as the Big Dipper, which is only a small part of Ursa Major. One spectacular asterism in our OTR night sky is the great Summer Triangle made up of the alpha star of three different constellations—Vega, in Lyra, the Lyre of Orpheus, the brightest star in the summer sky, and fifth brightest overall in the Northern Hemisphere; Altair in Aquila, the Eagle, the 12th; and Deneb, in Cygnus, the Swan, the 19th.

Holes by Joel Jacobs

Chapter 4 - Gone

"Is that a big, white rabbit?" asked Melissa.

"Could be, but I've never seen a rabbit with silver antennas instead of ears," I said.

"Or amber eyes that act like flashlights," added Melissa.

"It looks like it's actually eating those golf balls," I said. "There's a whole pile of them in front of it. That hole in the bottom of the cup that I told you about is supplying food for it."

"What are golf balls made of?" asked Melissa.

"Rubber, or layers of rubber-like stuff with some sort of synthetic plastic cover," I answered.

"Can't be too nutritious," she commented.

"Not for a warm-blooded mammal, but that's no real rabbit," I stated.

"What is it, then?" she queried.

"I have no idea, Mel. My guess is that it's some kind of manufactured robot."

"Robots don't need to eat," she remarked.

"That's true."

We watched as the big rabbit finished devouring its snack. Then it looked around, grasped another ball, nodded at it dismissively and tossed it in our direction. It was a neon red TaylorMade.

"It's picking through them. Seems like it prefers the white ones," I ventured.

"I gotta get a picture of this. It might be an alien," said Melissa pulling her phone camera out of her cave pack.

She held it up, steadied it against one of the vertical formations, focused, and tapped the button. The flash stymied all of us; Mel, me, and the white rabbit. The rabbit emitted a powerful, mechanical wail that echoed off the walls, as if it were in excruciating pain. Its "ears" began extending up from its head. They bent to flatten out and began to rotate like the blades of a helicopter. It lifted off from the ground and hovered at about 3 feet high. A blue light was projected downward within which a small propeller emerged. It began to rotate until it was just a blur. Still shrieking into the darkness, the rabbit rose in circles, coming close to us behind the stone pillars, then shot up and into an indiscernible hole in the ceiling and it was gone.

"Wow!" I exclaimed, and after taking a few breaths to calm my pounding heart, and in a softer, but excited voice asked, "Did you get a pic?"

Mel checked her cell. "Nope. Except for a couple of tan swooshes, it's all whited out."

"That's too bad," I commented. "You know, nobody is going to believe this story back at OTR."

"Yeah," she said, "If they ask where we've been caving in the middle of the night we can just answer with," and I joined her in voicing it because I knew what was coming . . .

. . . "Down the Rabbit Hole."

—The End—