



# Gadsden Grotto Newsletter

## Scottsboro Weekend

August, 2003

Volume 16, No. 4

Friday 7/11/03

Mark & I left to meet Jim Loftin on Scottsboro Mtn. to camp. Jason Record from Cookeville, Tenn. called Jim and asked if we would take he and his girlfriend Brandy caving for the whole weekend, so we told them we would be glad to. We arrived at the camp at 11:30pm, Jim was already set up. A couple of hours later Jason and Brandy pulled up. After they set up their camp we discussed where we were going caving Saturday and Sunday. Shortly after, Mark & I

tucked into our sleeping bags for the night.

Saturday 7/12/03

7am rolled around. We woke up, cooked a good breakfast while Jason and Brandy **went to eat at Hardee's. On** their way down to the gate, Jason saw a good sized rattlesnake on the road. He jumped out of his Jeep, quickly grabbed the snake, and came back to show it to us. We took a photo of him and the beast.

The snake was some what calm, but his buttons were making music. He hopped back into his SUV and took

the snake down to the bottom of the mountain to let it loose. When they came back, we headed off to **Neversink. To be cont'.**

Written By: Kelly Keener

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Rattlesnakes on Scottsboro Mountain!!! Jason Record from Cookeville, Tennessee.

## "Never Sink"

Saturday, 7/12/03

We arrived at Neversink at 10am.

**Harold Calvert and Patrick O'Diam** of the Cullman Grotto was there dropping the pit a few times. It was a beautiful day and the pit had a good bit of water falling down into it. Mark rigged the rope, and descended first to belay Brandy when she went down. I repelled down after Mark, then Brandy. It was a smooth ride dropping the pit for her first time, also **Jason's. We hung around the bottom** for a while, then Mark & I ascended up. As I was climbing, I had to stop and stare at the waterfalls, sunbeams, and three rainbows that were side by side of each other.

I took a picture of the beautiful view, then I continued climbing to the top. Jason and Jim went down where Brandy was. She was checking out the crawfish swimming around in the pools of water at the bottom edge of the pit. After I took a short break, I dropped the pit again. When I touched bottom, Jim was shooting photos of Jason and Brandy. When we climbed out, two cavers arrived as we were putting our gear back into our packs. They asked if they could use

our rope to bounce the pit. As they were doing that, we decided to hike over to Little Never Sink and drop that pit. Mark rigged the shorter, rope he and Jason went down. When they got back to the top, we heard a **vague "Off Rope", so Mark and Jim** went to retrieve the rope at the big pit. While they were gone coiling the rope, Jason, Brandy, and I heard the most loud awful scream, then a pause, **then "He-Haw, He-Haw". It sounded** like someone falling down the pit, But it was a loud obnoxious mule.

**"Jackass" is a better word for it, due** to it nearly making our bones jump out of our skin. Just after, Mark and Jim showed up with the rope, and we headed back to our vehicles in search for the nearest Mexican restaurant. After arriving at the camp, we put on our gear and dropped Scottsboro Pit. We got back, set up camp, and got ready for another big day. We sat around for awhile, and talked about spending all day at Valhalla the following day. **To be cont'.**

Written By: Kelly Keener



Neversink  
waterfalls,  
sunbeams,  
rainbows,  
and rope!



## Valhalla

On Sunday, we went to Valhalla. We drove up the road which is now in good condition again. When we reached the parking area, we noticed someone else was there. As we got to the top of the pit, we saw Bob Biddix there, he had already rigged and bounced the pit. We rigged the rope and before we descended, Kenny Chandler arrived, then shortly after was the Central Tennessee Grotto. We went ahead and descended down the pit and went on in to the cave. From the bottom of the pit, we made our way through the passages that

led us to the Mega Dome. After a few crawls and a couple of climbs-ups we made our way to the Dome. On our way out, we met Kenny, and the Central Tenn. Grotto on their way coming in. Jason and Brandy climbed the pit using the frog, then we climbed out. There were four ropes in the pit so it didn't take



From the bottom of the pit looking up.

long for us to climb out. We sat around our vehicles and talked to Kenny about caving for awhile, then we left to go back home.

Written By: Mark Medlen  
7/13/03



Jason & Brandy.  
Resting after a fun sporting days worth of caving.

## Cemetery Pit

Sunday 7/20/03, Mike Davis met Mark & I at our house around 8am to go to Cemetery Pit in Trenton, Ga. We arrived at the parking place, put on our packs and headed toward the kudzu trail, went through the tunnel and headed up the mountain. We got to the trail where the entrance was. The wind blowing out of the cave, it felt refreshing after hiking in the hot sun. Mark rigged the rope from a big tree, then rigged to the hangers on the right side of the wall where we had to stand onto a narrow ledge. We put on our gear, Mark went down

first to make sure the **rope wasn't tangled etc.** I went next, then Mike. We got to the bottom of the pit, and took the first right, climbed up into a tall winding canyon passage, then followed a passage heading downward. We went into a couple small crawl holes and popped out into a junction. To the right was a pit with a huge room, to the left was



Mike Davis "on safety" in Cemetery Pit

more passage to explore, but we had to stop due to needing more rope to go further into the cave. We then headed back out of the cave, and left to go home.

By: Kelly Keener

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Hand me a rock  
to throw down  
in here !!!!