

# RASS REGISTER



Richmond Area  
Speleological  
Society

January, 1999

Volume 27, Number 1



***A Toast to Caving  
and the New Year!***

The Richmond Area Speleological Society (RASS) is an Internal Organization (Grotto) of the National Speleological Society. RASS holds its General Meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 5300 West Marshall Street, Richmond, VA (see map). The doors open at 7:00 P.M., and the meeting starts at 7:30 P.M.

The RASS Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at 5300 West Marshall. Board meetings are open to the general membership and attendance is encouraged.

Our office is located at 5300 West Marshall, and is usually staffed during the mornings. The phone number is (804) 673-CAVE. Please leave a message at other times.

Annual membership is \$10.00 for NSS members, and \$15.00 for non-NSS members, due in January. Both memberships include a subscription to the *RASS Register*. If you would like membership information, please call the office, or write for an application.

Material contained in the *Register* may be used and/or reprinted by other NSS affiliated organizations, provided credit is given to the author and the *RASS Register*. Opinions expressed herein are those of the article's author, and not necessarily those of RASS, its Board of Directors, or the NSS. Grottos interested in exchanging newsletters should contact the Editor.

Material for publication in the *Register* can be submitted via hard-copy (delivered, by mail, or fax), 3.5" Macintosh disks, 3.5" and 5.25" PC formatted disks, in just about any popular word-processing format, or preferably, via email to [jgmurphy@richmond.infi.net](mailto:jgmurphy@richmond.infi.net). Deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month. Fax submissions can go directly to the Editor, at 804-796-3815, or to the RASS office, at 804-673-0118. Computer generated material is the easiest to work with, and "wordsmithing" services are available if you'd like to submit, but feel the need to have an English major help out. We'll even return your disks (eventually). Pictures, preferably high-contrast glossy prints are also welcome. Slides can also be reproduced. They will also be returned.

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ISSN 1045-4896

## Richmond Area Speleological Society Board of Directors

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
Mike Friedenberg, Chairman (98) .....	282-5138	
Margot Geisler, President (98) .....	261-1214	
Bob Barns, Vice President (99) .....	320-5182	236-3578
Art Heifetz, Secretary (99) .....	672-2800	262-6595
Ted Kayes, Treasurer (99) .....	272-4310	346-3697
Philip Newton (99) .....	288-5874	
Steve Wood (99) .....	230-9356	266-2497
Rich Geisler (98) .....	261-1214	935-2001
Darrel Worsham (98) .....	353-7690	
Glen Todd (99) .....	994-5902	994-5902
Tray Murphy (98) .....	796-6207	734-3889
Editor, <i>RASS Register</i> .....	796-3815	(fax/data)
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:jgmurphy@bigfoot.com">jgmurphy@bigfoot.com</a>	
Billy Pickett (98) .....	288-7591	

### Committee Chairs

Alex Sproul, Grants .....	(540) 377-2690	
John Adams, Bat Conservation .....	285-BEES	
Glen Todd, Field Station .....	994-5902	same
Janet Newton, Outings Co-Chair .....	288-5874	
Margot Geisler, Historian .....	261-1214	
Jackie Heifetz, Education Co-chair .....	672-2800	
Art Heifetz, Quartermaster .....	672-2800	262-6595
Jeanie London, Membership, Rescue .....	282-5138	358-7866

### Office Staff

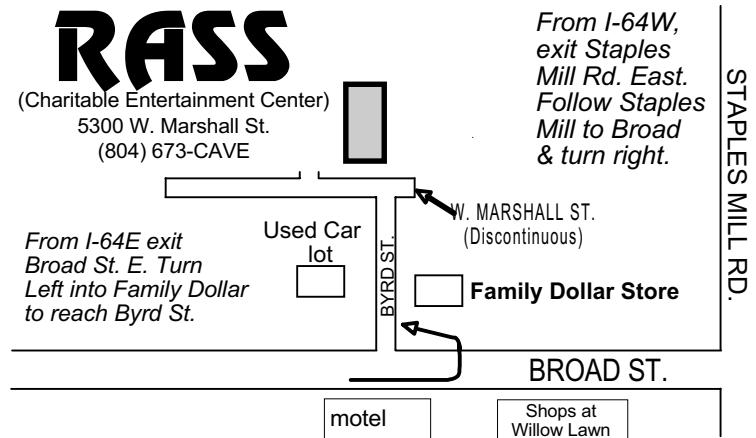
Becky Bracey, Office Manager .....	673-CAVE
Rich Geisler, Volunteer Coord., Bookkeeper .....	261-1214
Office FAX Machine .....	673-0118
Office e-mail: <a href="mailto:rass@richmond.infi.net">rass@richmond.infi.net</a>	

### Project Underground

Carol Zokaites, National Director .....	1-540-382-5437
	<a href="mailto:zokaites@usit.net">zokaites@usit.net</a>

RASS Field Station, Bath Co., VA .....

### How to find us:



*On the cover: Brandy (left) and Jason Hart celebrate caving in Clark's Cave! Photo by Larry Hart.*



# Caver Happenings

## January, 1999

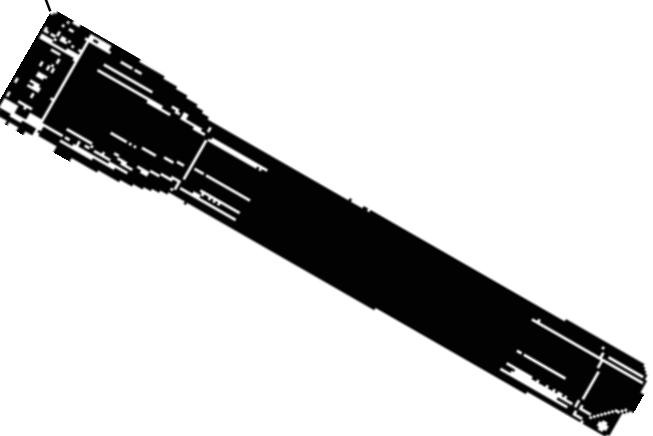
7 General Meeting  
14 Board Meeting  
TBA Grotto Novice Trip - Aqua Cave - Glen Todd

## February

4 General Meeting  
11 Board Meeting  
TBA Learn-a-Cave - Organ Cave - Glen Todd  
TBA Grotto Novice Trip - Mike Friedenberg

## July 12-16, 1999

NSS Convention, Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, Idaho. Contact: David W. Kesner, PO Box 1334, Boise, ID 83701; (208)939-0979; email drdave@micron.net



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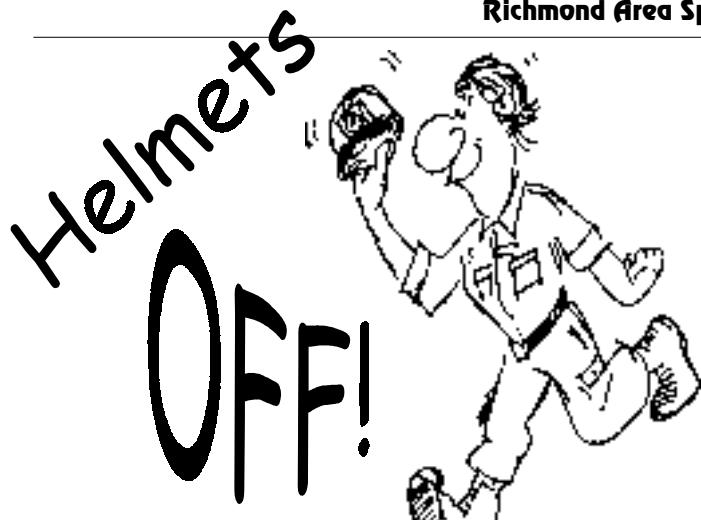
**The RASS Website has moved!!! Now we have a cool new URL, and much cheaper space! You can find us at:**

**<http://www.caves.org/grotto/rass>**

**And, there's a new feature on the site: The *RASS Register Online* edition! Saved as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file, it contains all the material of the print version, plus, starting in January, COLOR versions of the black and white pictures in your monthly newsletter.**

**Requires Adobe Acrobat version 3.0 or greater to read.**





by: Rich Geisler

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all that have volunteered to help with Bingo. Thanks a lot to the volunteers who helped when we really needed you! Folks, we have to have more volunteers, many nights are running short handed. If you can volunteer for either Sunday or Monday (especially) games, please call me at 261-1214. It only takes from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. I will have the sign up sheets at the General Meeting.

Here's a list of our volunteers for November and December, 1998

### THANK YOU!

**OOPS! Rich got out of town before I got the list from him. Thanks to everyone who spent a few hours with us during November and December! Won't you join us for a while this New Year? We ALWAYS need more volunteers!**



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

submitted by: Becky Bracey

Raymond S. Edwards  
9211 Stephens Manor Drive  
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116  
(804)550-0605(h)  
(804)274-2933(w)

Graham Edwards  
9211 Stephens Manor Drive  
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116  
(804)550-0605



*A scene from the Christmas Party. Jeanie London and Margot Geisler show off their additions to the Caver Christmas Tree. Photo by Maria Craft.*

# News Items

## Thanks from the MDA

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) I would like to extend a special thanks to the members of RASS for donating \$175.00 to MDA, I would also like to thank the club for matching that donation. Your generous donation of \$350.00 is greatly appreciated by the Association.

With your support the Car Pool Auto Wash/Quick Lube promotion was a tremendous success, raising over \$2,000.00! Maria Craft, a RASS member, alone raised over \$1 300.00...

...Thank you for helping us in the fight against neuromuscular diseases and we ask you to continue supporting MDA until muscular dystrophy is a disease of the past. I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,  
[signed]  
Denise Niccolucci  
Program Services Coordinator

*HEY ALL YOU BINGO VOLUNTEERS:  
PLEASE NOTE RICH'S WORK NUMBER  
HAS CHANGED TO 935-2001. IF YOU  
HAVE VOLUNTEERED AND CANNOT  
WORK PLEASE LET HIM KNOW (HOPE-  
FULLY IN TIME SO ANOTHER VOLUN-  
TEER CAN BE ARRANGED).*

## 1998 Grants and Donations

submitted by: Ted Kayes, Treasurer

Here is a summary of the grants RASS has given in 1998. It includes our donations to charities, also. The total last year was over \$30,000!

Grants were made to:

Project Underground  
Indiana Karst Conservancy  
National Speleological Society  
Virginia Karstlands  
American Cave Conservation Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
U. S. Deep Caving, Inc  
Millboro Fire Department  
Deerfield Vol Fire Department  
Piedmont Search and Rescue  
Hot Springs Rescue Squad  
RASAR  
Radford University  
American Heart Association  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
Alden Aaroe Shoe Fund  
Henrico Christmas Mother  
Woodland Church  
Freedom House

## Election Results

The 1999-2000 Board Election was run by Steve Wood, Bob Barns, and Phil Newton. They found seven members to run for the six seats up for election. One hundred-nineteen ballots were sent out, thirty-seven were returned. That's 31% of our regular members caring enough to vote. The winners of two-year seats on the RASS Board of Directors were: Mike Friedenberg, Rich Geisler, Margot Geisler, Tray Murphy, Billy Pickett, and Darrel Worsham. Thanks, too, to Chris Winder for running this year. Officers for the coming year will be elected at the January Board Meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Board Retreat

The 1999 Board of Directors' Retreat will be held over the weekend of February 26-28<sup>th</sup>. For the third year in a row, it will be held at the Jamestown 4-H Camp. Please let Becky know as soon as possible if you plan to attend this important planning meeting for the grotto.

# Trip Report

## Caving and Christmas Money Mixed

By: Jason Hart



*Jason (left), and Larry Hart in one of the entrances to Clark's Cave.  
Photo by Brandy Hart*

of the locals. When we get into the cave we try something new, a map. We break out the compass and make our way into the cave. After thinking we were getting into the cave, and seeing that blue light (the entrance) on every attempt, we sit down and really navigate. Now we're moving! The map is making sense. After five hours of climbing, crawling, and searching, we are halfway to the area that we want to be. We also find a word lying on the ground there. It is formed out of stacked up rocks that say "help". At first, we thought Billy may have made this sign. But, then we thought that if there is really someone in here, we need to find them. We called out and searched for a while and then went on to the register. There is no one. So we decide to go on out. We search for a car that may have been left by the distressed caver, but there was none. We then decide to go ahead and leave.

We arrive at Bob (late as usual), and start peeling potatoes. After the last one is peeled Brandi and I are sentenced to drying duty. We have to get the nasty, cold caving coveralls and turn them "dirty side out" and then set them out to dry overnight. After eating

A delicious Fried Potato dinner, one by one we pass out. The next morning we eat corn flakes and pack the caving gear into the truck. We are off to Clark's Cave.

On the way there we stop by Maw Clark's house to sign in, chitchat, and bring her a cherry pie. After we dress out at the parking place, we start down the hill. This time we bring rope to assist us on battling the hill on the way up. After the slide down we start at entrance number two of six. One of our objectives on this trip is to find all of the entrances. All of the

The morning after a fulfilling Thanksgiving dinner, we decide to take off for the biggest shopping day of the year! To the mall? No! To Inner Mountain Outfitters we go! The saved Christmas money is blown in about fifteen minutes on new helmets, headlamps, and wonderful Bomber kneepads.

After departing from Alex's house we have a decision to make, to Clarks, or to Crossroads? It's Friday, and we're feeling fine, so let's go to the infamous Crossroads Cave. After paying a brief visit to "Bob", we are on our way! When we arrive at the church parking lot it is empty, but we have all ready dressed out for sake

*continued on page 6*

# 1998 rasshole awards

Darrel Worsham mc'ed the 1999 RASSHole Awards presentations at the Christmas Party on December 5th. Here are the winners of this years recognitions. Serious Awards, thanks members and recognizing them for their efforts to help the grotto throughout the year are **bolded**.



*Darrel Worsham (left) recognizes the five “Real Men Cavers - Rescue Cavers of the Year”, (2<sup>nd</sup> from left, to right): Steve Wood, Chris Hayes, Matt Barns, Mike Williams, and Todd Miller. Photo by Maria Craft.*

“Best Use of a Bat on a Christmas Tree” Award - Margot Geisler

Best Cave Pack Award - Chris Winder

**Certificate of Appreciation - Rich Geisler**

**Certificate of Appreciation - Billy Pickett**

“I want to be like Billy Pickett” Trip Leader Award - Matt Barns

Best Trip Leader Award (should be know as the ‘Longest Trip Leader’ Award - **Billy Pickett**

Going Postal Award - Don Grossman

“I Didn’t wake up in the OTR med Tent” Award - Sara Heifetz

Yard Sauce Award - Dave Bolter (male)

Yard Sauce Award - Lori Barrett (female)

“I Survived the Ocoee, barely” Award - Wayne Craft

Underground Gas Leak Award (aka, the Barking Cave Spider Award) - Larry Hart

“I Survived OTR” Award - Melissa Senkalski

“I almost yakked enough to win the yard sauce award” Award - Eric Blackwell (co-winner)

“I Almost yakked enough to win the yard sauce award” Award - Michael Wayne Craft (co-winner)

**“I Went to OTR instead of meeting Jerry Lewis” Award (otherwise known as the “I have my priorities straight Award) - Maria Craft**

**Vertical Caver Award - Jessica Pickett**

**Most Improved Caver - Rose Marie Dexter**

**Real Man “Rescue Caver of the Year” Award - Todd Miller, Mike Williams, Steve Wood, Matt Barns, Chris Hayes**

**Best New Bingo Caller Award - Steve Wood**

**Best Editor Award - Tray Murphy**

Recognition for “Kicking the Skunk” - Bill Biggers

*continued from page 4*



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*Brandy Hart in Clark's Cave.  
Photo by Larry Hart.*

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entrances were found besides entrance number six. A Black Widow {spider} detours us from this goal. So, into the mountain we go! As expected, the map doesn't match up. Thankfully we know the general direction to go. We visit the Saltpeter mining section and the formation section. We learn the map and cave on. On the way out we find the rope! This makes getting up that hill a lot easier. After we get to the truck we go to Bob to relax and sleep.

When we wake up, we have an unusual breakfast, Pancakes! After cutting firewood, cleaning the house, and packing up we are beat. I-64 east is very busy with holiday travelers, and since we did not go caving on Sunday we've got time to take the scenic route. We take the slow route home. (rt.250) This was a good trip; we learned more about the two caves, but in the process we also lost our Christmas money.

Happy Caving,  
Jason Hart



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*Jason Hart in Clark's Cave.  
Photo by Larry Hart*

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# Speleofied Ads



Great for pond fishing! No, not Maria. But instead a beautiful blue V-bottom jon boat for sale. 12', trailer/trolling motor. Ready to go. Asking \$600. Call Wayne and Maria.



*Left: Dancers, dancers, everywhere! And every size and age! Photo by Maria Craft.*



*Right: Part of the crowd at the 1998 Christmas Party. Thanks to Phil and Janet Newton for chairning the event again this year. Photo submitted by Maria Craft.*

# Membership Categories & Annual Fees

## Individual Members

Receive one monthly issue magazine, the NSS News, our semi-annual scientific journal, the Journal of Cave & Karst Studies, and our annual Membership Directory. Membership also entitles you to Audio/Visual and Printed Library Check out privileges and bookstore discounts.

Regular (for 12 months) all privileges of membership  \$30.00  
 Assoc. (one Judge, one Member under 21, one young)  \$20.00  
 Sustaining (five issues, add \$14.00 regular membership)  \$44.00  
 Life (Purchase of Regular Membership for a single payment)  \$540.00  
 Institutional (Institutional, scientific organization, non-profit)  \$60.00

## Family Members

Family members receive similar membership benefits, but don't get publications. To qualify for the family discount, family members must pay at the same time as the individual members.

Family Regular (Non-caving and Regular Sustaining or Life Member)  \$6.00  
 Family Associate (Non-caving and Non-voting Regular Member)  \$4.00  
 Senior or Life Member (Non-caving and Non-voting)  \$4.00  
 Family Sustaining (1/2 the cost of individual Family Life Membership)  \$31.00  
 Family Life Member (non-voting)  \$270.00

Please fax or mail your signed application to:

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.   
 THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND CAVES CONSERVATION

2813 Cave Avenue  
 Huntsville, Alabama 35810-4431  
 Phone: (205) 855-1300 • Fax: (205) 851-9241  
 E-Mail: [nss@caaves.org](mailto:nss@caaves.org)  
<http://www.caaves.org/nss/>

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# Membership Application

## Your Information

Name   Male  Female

Address

City  State  Zip

Country

Date of Birth  Occupation

Phone (  )

Email Address

Membership Category

Union Affiliation (if any)

Are you a former NSS Member  Yes  No

If so, NSS number  Year joined

## Information on Family Members

Name   Male  Female

Address

City  State  Zip

Date of Birth  Occupation

Membership Category

Signature

Name   Male  Female

Address

City  State  Zip

Date of Birth  Occupation

Membership Category

Signature

I support the purposes of the National Speleological Society and its Caves Conservation Policy. Please accept my application for membership.

Signature  Date

## RICHMOND AREA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Chapter of the National Speleological Society

APPLICATION FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 1999

Please check appropriate category:

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dues run Jan - Dec )

Regular	... NSS Number _____	Dues thru: _____	Dues \$10/year
Associate	... (not NSS member)		Dues \$15/year
Family	... NSS Number _____	Dues thru: _____	Dues \$5/year
Associate	... (not NSS member)		Dues \$15/year

PLEASE FILL IN ALL BELOW INFORMATION FOR THE OFFICE RECORDS. THANK YOU.

## MAIN OR ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP+4 \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Grotto \_\_\_\_\_ Other Grotto Memberships \_\_\_\_\_  
(Designation of your Primary Grotto affiliation is needed for NSS reports and COG votes.)Please return this form with your dues payment. Thanks.  
RASS, 5100 West Marshall St., Richmond, VA 23230FAMILY MEMBER OR FAMILY ASSOCIATE INFORMATION (Will not receive publications. Will not have voting privileges if not an NSS member):NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NSS # \_\_\_\_\_ Thru: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# \_\_\_\_\_ Thru: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# \_\_\_\_\_ Thru: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# \_\_\_\_\_ Thru: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
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E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Grotto: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Contributors to the Register:

Thanks to:

Maria Craft for pictures of the Christmas Party!

The Harts for pictures and a trip report!

Darrel Worsham for providing the RASS Awards summary!

Ted Kayes for the Grants info, and

Becky Bracey for the New Member info!

Visit the *RASS Register Online!* at

[http://www.caves.org/grotto/rass/rass\\_register\\_online.html](http://www.caves.org/grotto/rass/rass_register_online.html)