

# Aggie Speleological Society

3/2/23



# Announcements

Of The Speleological Variety

# Vertical Trainings

- Advanced Vertical
  - March 6 5 pm -6:30 pm
  - March 6 6:30 pm- 8 pm
  - Knot passes, rebalays, J-hangs, basic rigging principles
- Luke, Tristan, & Jakob have sessions announced in GroupMe or via text



# TSA Spring Convention

- May 19-21
- Cave Without A Name, Boerne
- Camping & Carpooling
- Grottos from around Texas will gather
- The Spring TCR if you would
- Talk with Jenna if you are interested!



# NSS Convention



- Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV
- 26 June - 30 June
- **Travel dates June 24 - July 2**
- Cheapest option **\$581.54** per person no scholarship
  - Early registration price ends on May 1st
  - Full scholarship **\$381.54** per person (deadline 4/15/23)
  - 4 person car
  - Group meals
- **Speak with Jenna if you are interested!**
  - I can go through pricing with you and show you where my calculations came from and places that we could potentially make this cheaper
  - I have the link and paperwork for the scholarship! Talk with me or Caleb!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qb9hflxN5pQ>

# NRO - Northeastern Regional Organization

- Pattersonville, NY
- June 9 - June 11
- **Travel dates June 7 - June 13**
- Cheapest Option **\$384.38** per person
  - 4 person car
  - Group meals
- Speak with Jenna if you are interested!
  - I can go through pricing with you and show you where my calculations came from and places that we could potentially make this cheaper

# Ben Hutchinson Survey Practical

- March 25
- McCarty Cave, San Marcos, TX
  - Horizontal
- Learn how to survey!
  - Project caving
  - Setting stations
  - Using DistoX/Brick
  - Marking stations
  - Practical survey tips
- 8 spots open!
- Carpool there and back
  - Daytrip!
  - Maybe stop and grab some good grubs on the way back...?!?
- Ben Hutchinson = BNC in Texas!!!



# Dig with Rich

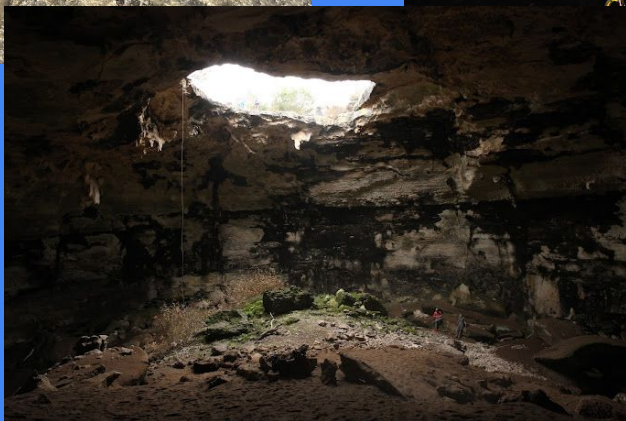
- Saturday, March 25
- Jarrell, Texas
- He's really excited about the property and caves!
- The more people that go the more fun it generally is
  - Dig faster get to virgin passage faster!
- Opportunity to find more caves!
- More details to come in future meetings!

# Deep & Punkin

Great trip much success very vertical

- Led by Jakob & Tristan
- 20 ASS
- 6 Old ASS
- Note on personal responsibility





*Thank you Josh for bringing your camera and taking some awesome pics!*

***Thank y'all for a great trip!***



# Robot Ranch Cheve Packing Party



# Virgin Cave Restoration - 2/25/23

- Moderate to strenuous hike to the cave which is on the side of a cliff face
- Repaired 11 formations in total
- Kate peached her first pit! 74 feet in total!
- Mike Mansur, Hunter Klein, Jakob Schnur, Kate O'Connor, & Jenna Crabtree
- Kate & Jenna were gifted Cave Formation Repair Project shirts!







# Mike Mansur is a freak beast.



# Local Grottos

- Most states have multiple local caving grottos, these are official caving “societies” that are registered through the National Speleological Society
- How do you find the closest grotto to where you live?
- Grottos hold regular meetings and also have paid dues. Each grotto is different! Some are more formal and others more relaxed.
- What Grottos do/organize:
  - Caving trips
  - Parties/ Socials
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Cave Expeditions
  - Vertical Training Practice
  - Relay NSS news/info
- Being a member of a grotto gives you more credibility as a caver, it shows community involvement and grottos often support preserving the local environment!
- If you plan on caving outside of the state, get in touch with local grottos to find where to go!

# TEXAS Grottos

- AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - the only college grotto in Texas
- Bexar Grotto- San Antonio
- Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW) Grotto- DFW
- Greater Houston Grotto- Houston
- Lubbock Area Grotto- Lubbock
- Permian Basin Speleological Society- Midland
- Underground Texas (UT) Grotto - Austin
  - The closest caves to College Station are in Austin! We do a lot of caving and volunteer projects in Austin and with UT Grotto members.

# Cave Management Organizations in TEXAS

- Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA)
  - Manages caves and karst preserves all over Texas, including O-9 Well Cave and Deep & Punkin Cave
- Texas Speleological Association (TSA)
  - Manage caves generally more west of Austin, like Government Canyon and Honey Creek



# The National Speleological Society (NSS)





# The NSS

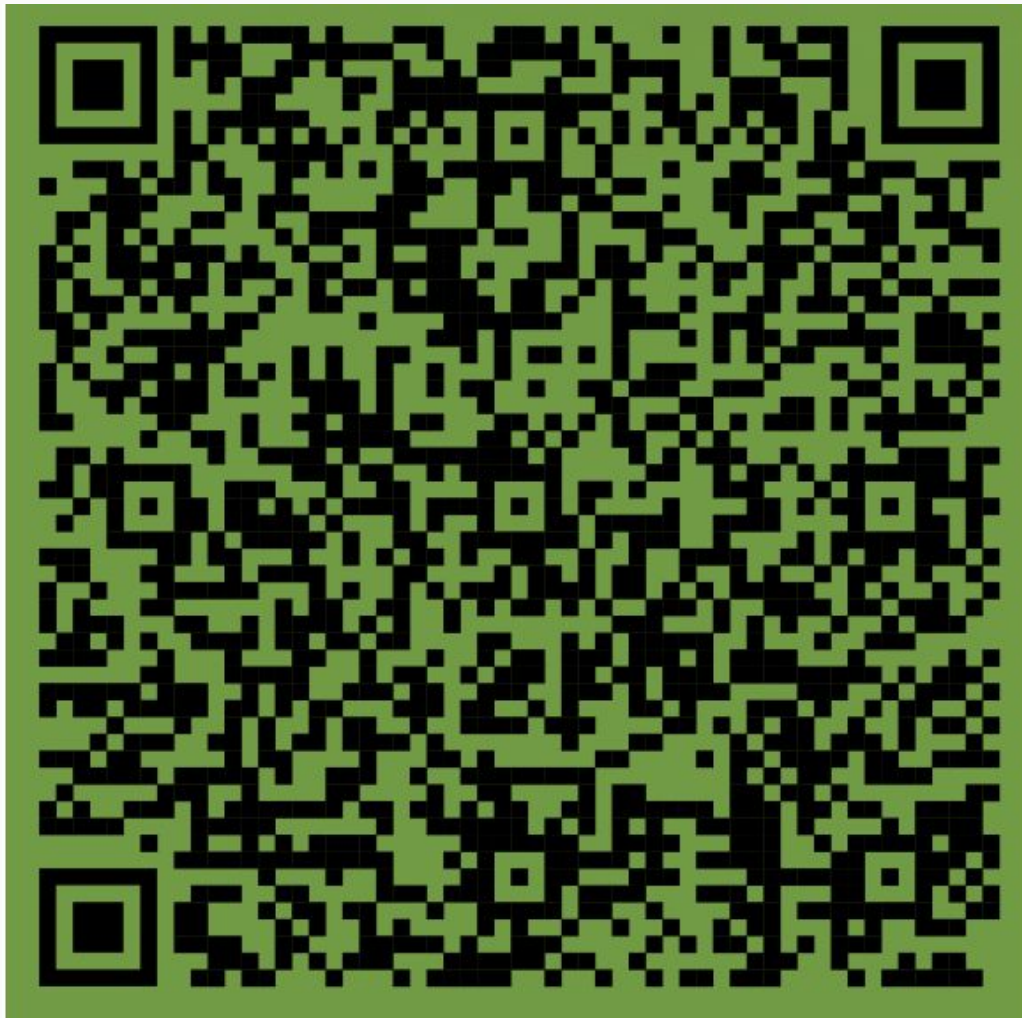
- A National organization with the goal of preserving caves and cave environments while also promoting cave exploration and scientific discovery
- NSS manages multiple cave systems that its members have access to
- NSS runs a convention every summer to discuss cave exploration, discovery, biology, geology, and more
  - The convention also has cave trips planned when you arrive so all you have to do is show up and sign up!
- Facilitates NCRC - National Cave Rescue Commission as well as 21 cave preserves
  - NCRC is essentially cave rescue training
- The NSS also has yearly membership dues that go toward cave management, and buying new land to protect or establish cave preserves



# The NSS

- The NSS sponsors, facilitates, or endorses many other cave events yearly
  - TAG Cave-In
  - Old-Timers Reunions
  - Local/Regional Cave Reunions
  - Cave Fest
  - Texas Hydro Geo Workshop
  - Etc.
- Most importantly... the NSS fosters fellowship amongst cavers all over the USA and the world

Ben  
Hutchinson  
Survey  
Practical





Dig with Rich



Those going to BCI stay late!