

70th Annual Old Timers Reunion Update From the 2019 Chairman

Greetings fellow cavers, TRA Members, & OTR attendees!

Welcome to the Special Spring Edition of the Coot & Holler, the daily source of all the news that fit to print during OTR. While OTR 2018 is starting to become a wonderful memory of a weekend spent in fellowship with fellow cavers, it is time to start thinking of the 70th OTR that will occur in just a few short months.

Planning for OTR 2019 began even before OTR 2018 was completed. I've been hard at work planning for OTR 2019 with Ben Mirable, Vice-Chairman, and a group of very dedicated volunteer Staff Members. During OTR 2019, we will be celebrating our 70th Reunion. In recognition of the 70th OTR, we will be highlighting the 1970's and enjoying some activities that were popular during OTR's that occurred in the 1970's.

Some of the planned activities will require some advance planning and preparation on your part in order to take full advantage of a really cool OTR experience.

Please make sure to read through this Special Spring Edition of the Coot & Holler so you can talk with fellow cavers and grotto members. I'm sure that you'll be anxious to begin planning for OTR 2019 very soon. Also, make sure to check the OTR website at www.otr.org and the OTR 2019 Facebook page for updates.

I hope to have another Special Edition of the Coot & Holler distributed to you in about a month after you receive this one. The next edition will provide more updates and it will highlight the live entertainment that has been scheduled to provide music so that you can show off some of your best disco dance moves.

I'm looking forward to an awesome OTR while we collectively reunite as friends and cavers for a weekend of celebration.

Please feel to contact me at: OTR2019@otr.org if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments.

Cheers,

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OTR Auction Returns!

Remember when you used to be able to buy an "auction-sized" wetsuit? Well, this year you will have that chance again as the OTR Auction will be revived. The OTR Auction sold the first item up for bid during OTR 1978. Thousands of caving related items has been sold during the several decades that the OTR Auction existed. The OTR Auction was not only a great place to purchase caving related gear, but it was also a great source of entertainment to those that attended. The original OTR Auctioneer was notorious for using wit, humor, and an extensive knowledge in his description of items up for bid. In fact, many attended the OTR Auction just to be entertained by the OTR Auctioneer.

It is with great pleasure and honor that it is announced that the 2019 OTR Auction will feature the original OTR Auctioneer from 1978. He has agreed to dust off his bell-bottoms and wide lapels to auction off caving related items during a revival of the OTR Auction. Start looking through your closets and garages now to bring down to OTR to place in the OTR Auction. Details concerning the

auction and what will be accepted (we don't want to auction off seven cases of MRE's and 86 editions of the NSS Newsletters individually) will be published soon. Bring some of your old gear and collectibles that you don't want anymore and drop them off to be auctioned off during the OTR Auction. Who knows, you might even make enough for a corndog and beer from Cooters from the proceeds from the sale of your donated gear.



OTR Gong Show

Does anyone remember Chuck Barris? If you guessed the 1976 – 1980 host of the Gong Show then you're correct! This year, we will have our own version of the OTR Gong Show. We will host a Gong Show style variety show that occurs on Friday evening before the band



performs. It will be done in the same style of the classic Gong Show. We are planning our own version of the popular 1970's variety/talent show from the 1970's complete with a witty host, sarcastic but honest judges, and of course a giant gong. Now is your chance to showcase your individual / group talent for your fellow cavers. There will be categories for individuals and groups. Start working now on an individual or

group talent act to perform at the OTR Gong Show.

For planning purposes, it is necessary for individuals / groups to sign-up ahead of time. A few walk-up acts will be accepted based on time allowance. Start thinking of now of your talent that you would like to showcase during the OTR Gong Show. Sign-ups for the OTR Gong Show will go online via the OTR website this summer. Please visit the OTR website for more information.

OTR Pre-Registration

Last year, the OTR Pre-Registration process underwent a complete overhaul. The OTR Pre-Registration Committee has listened to your suggestions and implemented new processes to make pre-registering for OTR a very easy process. Once pre-registration for OTR goes on-line, you will be able to pre-register for OTR and purchase some

really cool OTR merchandise. You will also be able to pre-register for an event or two that sold out last year before OTR started.

This year there will be an increase of \$3 per adult attendee in order to provide a consistent revenue stream for the awarding of grants. The grants awarded by TRA support the ongoing research and education related to caves and caving within the community of cavers associated with TRA.

Mark your calendars for July 1st. This is the day that Pre-Registration for OTR 2019 is scheduled to be open. Make sure that you jump on-line early to pre-register. There will be some awesome OTR 2019 merchandise that will be available in limited quantities. Once these items are sold out, they may not be available for purchase during OTR.

OTR Day Passes

The OTR Day Pass fee for OTR 2019 will decrease from \$20 per day to \$10 per day. The decrease in the fee for day passes has been established in order to allow those cavers within the immediate geographic region more economical access to OTR in order to visit with friends and fellow cavers. Day Pass attendees will also be able to visit the many vendors on Vendor's Row at OTR. Day Pass attendees will be required to either exit the TRA property by 6:00 or they can convert their Day Pass admission into a full admission to OTR by visiting the Registration Pavilion and completing the proper registration documentation.

Military Tribute

During the 1970's, there was a terrible wrong that I hope to right within our community of cavers. For whatever reason, our brave men and women returning home from military duty in the 1970's were not always met with the proper admiration and appreciation that they deserved. In fact, they were sometimes met with less than admirable scenarios. On Saturday evening there will be a tribute to those amongst our attendees that served in the military that properly recognizes their commitment and sacrifices to our country and the freedoms that we enjoy.

Kindly reach out to your fellow cavers that attend OTR and share the following information:

If you are currently serving in the military (whether it be US or Canadian), or if you have previously served in the military (again it can be either US or Canadian); please send an e-mail to: OTR2019@otr.org that includes the following information:

1. Name of the OTR Attendee that will be attending OTR 2019 that either currently serves in the military or has served in the military (either US military or Canadian military).
2. Military Rank of the OTR Attendee that will be attending OTR 2019.
3. Branch of Service of the OTR Attendee that will attending OTR 2019.

This information will need to be submitted to: OTR2019@otr.org by July 18th, 2019. Please indicate "OTR Military" in the subject line of the e-mail. Please don't delay on getting this information submitted, as I want to make sure that all deserving members of our military family are included in the military tribute at OTR.



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