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Introduction and Background

I started caving in 1972, as a Boy Scout in Pinson, Alabama. Over the next 7 years, I explored a number of caves in the Birmingham area as an untrained and poorly equipped, but enthusiastic, “spelunker.” In 1979, I joined the Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech caving group, where I met organized cavers for the first time and learned of the National Speleological Society. I joined the NSS and the Dogwood City Grotto in 1980, and have been an active member ever since. In 1991, I was one of the founders of the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc., and served as a director for 27 years. I am a 40-year Life Member and Fellow of the Society. I served the Society as a Director from 2010 to 2016. I also served as Editor of *American Caving Accidents* from 1996 to 2007, as a member of the NSS Headquarters Commission from 2012 to 2016, as the first Chief of the Information Technology Division, from 2014 to 2017, and as Fundraising Chairman from 2010 to 2016.

Caving-related Experience, Positions Held, and Contributions to American Caving and Speleology

- Active horizontal, vertical, and recreational caver since 1972 in the TAG region of the southeastern USA, as well as experiences in Wyoming, Kentucky, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, Indiana, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, South Dakota, Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, France, Canada, and Mexico. Still planning to add the UK, Spain, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Oregon, California, and Alaska.
- First commercial cave: Ruby Falls, Tennessee (1969). First non-commercialized cave trip: Indian Cave, Alabama (1972). First cave trip with proper equipment: Tumbling Rock Cave, Alabama (1979). First vertical cave: Johnsons Crook Cave, Georgia (1980). First training in cave rescue, National Cave Rescue Commission (1980). Longest cave trip: 7 days, Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico (multiple expeditions). Coldest cave trip: Darby Canyon Cave, Wyoming. Deepest cave trip: Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico (-1,600'). Wettest cave trip: Acanthus Sink Cave, Alabama (1982). Hottest cave trip: Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico (1989). Deepest pit: El Sótano del Rancho El Barro, Mexico (1,250'). Favorite cave: Ellisons Cave, Georgia. Worst caving trip ever: Ellisons Cave, Georgia (1987).
- NSS member (1980), Life Member (1995), and Fellow (1995).
- NSS Director, 2010-2016.
- NSS Fundraising Chair, 2010-2016.
- NSS Headquarters Commission member, 2012-2016.
- NSS Information Technology Division Chief, 2014-2017.
- NSS Office IT Support Technician (volunteer, 2005-2018); Chair of the Office Systems committee, 2005-2018.
- NSS *American Caving Accidents*, Editor and publisher, 1996-2007.
- NSS National Cave Rescue Commission Instructor, 2006 to present; Co-developer of the NCRC Team Operations (TOFE) and Small Party Assisted Rescue (SPAR) courses.
- Member, Chattanooga Hamilton County Rescue Service Cave/Cliff/Technical Unit, 2005-present.
- Member, Walker County Rescue Cave & Cliff Team, 1996-2005.
- SCCi Founding Director (1991-2018), Chairman (1994-1999), Secretary, Acquisitions Chairman, Fundraising Chairman, charter Sustaining Member (1992-present), and Valhalla Society founding member and Chief Evangelist.
- Incorrigible surveyor, Disto, Brunton, and Suunto qualified instrument reader, pretty good sketcher, and middling cartographer.

- Substantial mapping experience in long and deep TAG caves, also many short and shallow TAG caves, and too many cold and wet caves, as well as in some of the most fabulous caves in the world with the CRF Mammoth Cave project (1990s) and in Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico.
- Experienced expedition leader, trip leader, party leader, and reluctant-but-capable lead climber in NPS caves. NPS/CRF-approved® for sketching and cave inventory at Carlsbad and Mammoth Cave national parks. Guaranteed not to touch formations, annoy guides, or frighten tourists.
- Participated in eight week-long Lechuguilla expeditions from 1989 to 2011, to areas including the Plush, Swank, and Luxurious North Rift, the Western Borehole, the Southwest, the Near East, the Far East, and the Voids.
- Participated in approximately ten CRF Mammoth Cave expeditions between 1991 and 1999 as a Joint Venturer and expedition leader.
- Extensive and occasionally colorful, experience in multi-drop vertical caves of the TAG region, as well as deep pits of Mexico, long caves of Kentucky, and alpine caves of Wyoming. Also a bit of modern-day spelunking in the Dent de Crolles System, France, during a business trip to the Petzl factory.
- Participated in more than two dozen cave rescue operations in the southeastern US, 1987-present, including experiences as both victim and underground leader, in complex multi-day rescue operations, as well as more spelunker rescues and shorter incidents than I can remember right now.

Professional

- Research Scientist, College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1984-1995.
- IT consultant, with 44 years of experience in networking, security, software development, software engineering, multimedia computing, Internet technologies, Open Systems computing, and intellectual property protection, 1995-present.
- President, Southeastern Rope Access LLC, an industrial rope access training and consulting company in Atlanta, GA, 2011-present.
- Certified Rope Access Technician, Level 3 - Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians (SPRAT) 2012, Industrial Rope Access Trade Association (IRATA) 2016.
- NPQ Pro-Board Certified NFPA Level II Rope Rescue Technician.
- NPQ Pro-Board Certified NFPA Confined Space Rescue Technician.

Leadership

- Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America, 1971-1977.
- Caving Sub-committee Chair, Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech, 1980.
- General Committee Chair, Outdoor Recreation Georgia Tech, 1981.
- Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Society, Georgia Tech, 1981.
- Director, Southeastern Cave Conservancy, 1991-2018.
- Chair, Southeastern Cave Conservancy, 1994-1999.
- Acquisitions Chair, Southeastern Cave Conservancy, 1999-2018
- Director, National Speleological Society, 2010-2016.
- Fundraising Chair, National Speleological Society, 2010-2016.
- Information Technology Division Chief, National Speleological Society, 2014-2016.
- Instructor and Lead Instructor, NCRC National Cave Rescue, 2006-present.
- President, Southeastern Rope Access, 2011-present.

Education

- B.S. in Physics, with honor, Georgia Tech, 1981.
- M.S. in Information and Computer Science, Georgia Tech, 1984.
- Graduate study in Geophysics, Georgia Tech, 1993-1996.