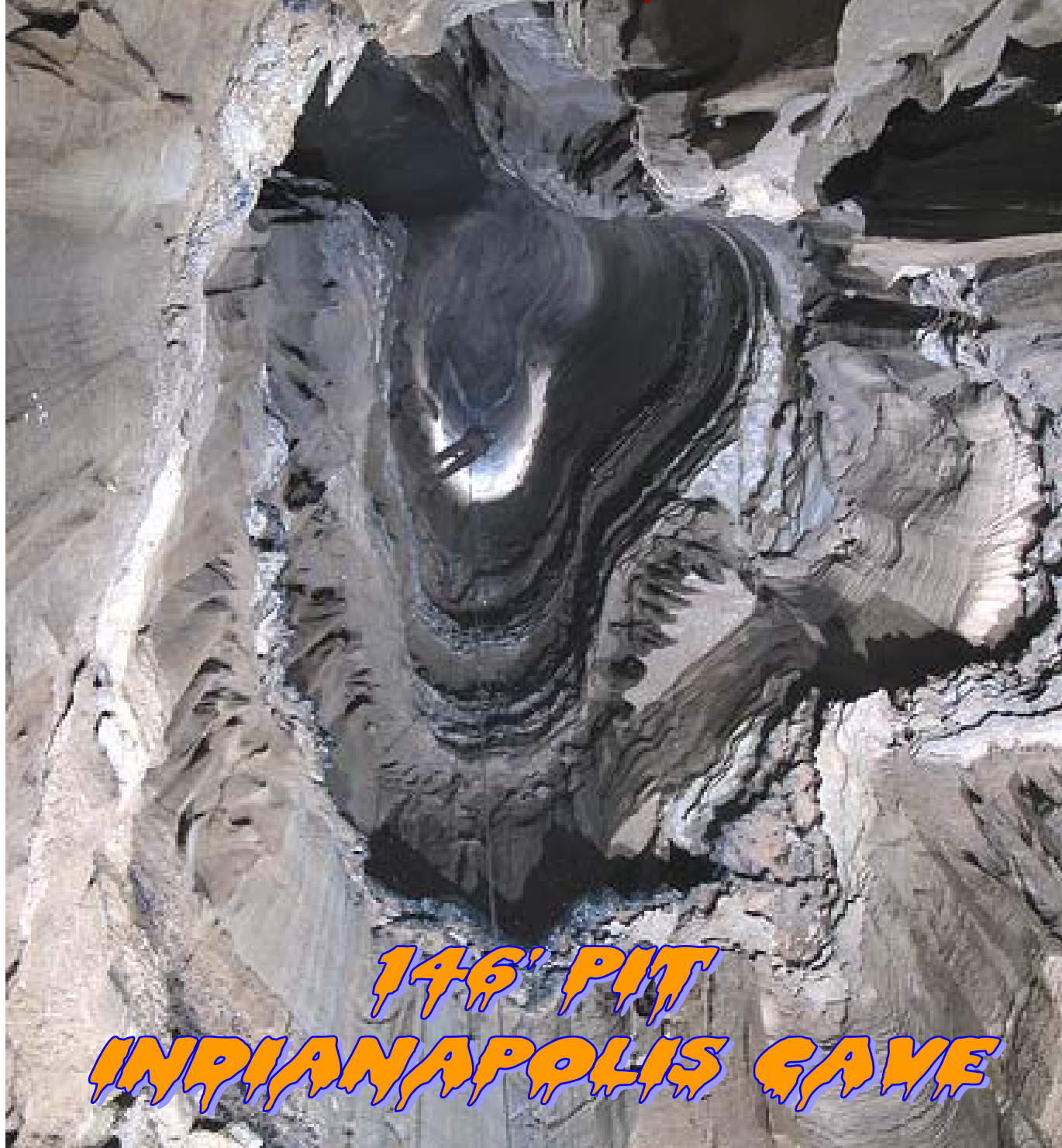


DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE FRONTIER



146' PIT
INDIANAPOLIS GAME

VOL. #23

ISS. #10

NOV

2008

#135



(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

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All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE **25TH** OF EACH MONTH.

*** The photo on the cover "Rappelling the 146' pit in Indianapolis Cave, White Co., Tenn."
Photo by Elliot Stahl (Indiana).

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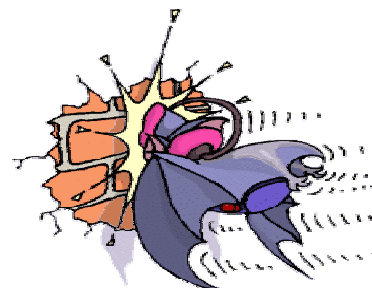
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**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **STILL** available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. If you don't have it in your library, then YOU MUST GET IT. It is PACKED with info about the QUARRY, the CAVE, the INDIAN BONES, and of course the **MAP!** If you are interested in purchasing the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT** [304-579-4304(H) or 304-725-3481 ext 491(W)](E-MAIL at gimpycaver@comcast.net or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at jcf@access.mountain.net)

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:
PROGRAM CHAIR
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



CAVING EVENTS

2008

NOV 1 ----- Kooken Cave – see Danny Cumbo
NOV 1 ----- Whittings Neck Cave – see Bob
NOV 4 ----- ELECTION DAY
NOV 8 ----- WVCC Banquet
NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 12 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM – Elections
NOV 27 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 28 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 10 ----- Wrap gifts for Red Cross – 6PM at
Martinsburg Mall
DEC 13 ----- GROTTO CHRISTMAS PARTY – 6PM
Until whenever?
DEC 14 ----- CAVING – see Bob
DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2009

JAN 1 ----- NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 14 ----- Grotto Meeting 7PM
JAN 19 ----- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
JAN 23-25 --- Carter Caves Crawl-A-Thon
FEB 2 ----- GROUND HOG DAY
FEB 11 ----- Grotto Meeting 7PM
FEB 14 ----- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 24 ----- FAT TUESDAY
MAR 11 ----- Grotto Meeting 7PM
MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 ----- SPRING EQUINOX
MAR 22 ----- WORLD WATER DAY
MAR 25 ----- MD DAY
APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 8 ----- Grotto Meeting 7PM
APR 10 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 12 ----- EASTER
APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
APR 24 ----- ARBOR DAY
APR 24-26 --- SPRING VAR – Sponsored by Tri-State
Grotto
JUL 19-26 --- NSS Convention, Kerryville, TX

2010

JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jcnctn, VT

2011

AUG 1-5 ----- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs, CO

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the organization of choice. The money SHOULD NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of October ----- \$00.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4328.00

Keep It Comin!

GROTTO LINKS

Tri-State Grotto website ----- www.wobey.net/TSG
VAR website ----- www.varegion.org
NSS website ----- www.caves.org
NSS Convention 2009 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
OTR Website ----- www.otr.org
MAR Website ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net
Andy Celmer's Web Site --- www.wobey.net/TSG/Andy/
Art Jr's Web Site ----- <http://photos.arthanson.net/>
Art Jr's 2nd Web Site ----- <http://www.tristategrotto.org/>
Bob's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Bob/
Earl Suitor's Web Site -----
----- <http://mysite.verizon.net/wvcaver/>
Ehren Gieske's Web Site --- www.wobey.net/TSG/Ehren/
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Jerry/
Vitas's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Vitas/
Tina Blaik's Web Site ----- www.kayakdream.com/
David Hackley's Web Site -----
--- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
Todd Robert's Web Site -----
-- http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/
Bob Gulden's Web Page - www.caverbob.com/home.htm
Nikki Fox's Web Site -----
----- <http://s231.photobucket.com/albums/ee8/cavefox1/>
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
-- www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman

Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto
Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
NSS Online Cavers ----- www.onlinecavers.com



MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Brooks Brogan, Patricia Cronin, Odes Durst, Nikki Fox, David Hackley, Laurel Hackley, Arthur Hanson Jr, Austin Jefferson, Chase Jefferson, Terry McClanathan, Julia Reeder, Johnny Robinson Jr, Abigail Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tri-State Grotto **Meeting** **October 8, 2008**

Bernie Wootten opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Chuck Stanley gave the treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and passed.

Blue Ridge Grotto said, Thank You, for the free pass to our **Spring VAR 09**.

Old business

Bob Bennett has the new Mini Mag flashlights, on sale for \$11.00 each. He passed one around. On them they have the **Tri-State Grotto** emblem.

VAR- We talked about the Spring 09 VAR.

The **Fall Bash** will be this Saturday

Next Saturday **Bob Bennett** will do a program for the **Girl Scouts at Crystal Grottoes Caverns**.

It was discussed to send 3 **Tri-State Grotto** decals or patches to **Tiffany Arnold** at the **Herald Mail**. It was moved, second and passed. She was taken to **Donaldson's Cave**. (It is still dry.) She wrote an article about caving, which will be in this Sunday's paper.

Two names that were seen in an area of this cave that is usually flooded are: **Adam Reeder** 1863 and **James Booth**, who was the **Delaware State Geologist**.

Trips:

Nov 1st - **Kookens Cave**.

Oct 10 - **Donaldson's Cave** at 8 pm this Friday.

November 1 - Saturday at 10 am, **Whiting's Neck Cave**. See Bob Bennett.

JC talked about a Dig in November in **Hampshire County**.

CaveBucks. We sent this meeting's **CaveBucks** to **WVCC**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by
John P. Di Carlo, Jr.

Bridge Day 2008

View from a Bridge Day Virgin

Monongahela Grotto Bridge Day Team:

Brian Masney, Mary Schmidt, David Riggs, John Harman, Cullen Hencke, Jason Thomas, Don Ferguson, Bob Griffith, Mary Davis, Aaron Bird, Carl Amundson

From the Bridge Day website:

The New River Gorge Bridge is the world's second longest steel arch bridge with a main span of 1,700 feet. At 876 feet above the New River, the New River Gorge Bridge is the second highest bridge in the United States and the highest bridge east of the Mississippi. The teams will rappel distances between 700 and 850 feet, depending on their respective anchor spot on the catwalk.



I got to Passages in Fayetteville, WV at about 4pm on Friday October 17th and it was a zoo. A lot of people were arriving, registering and setting up camp. It was like old home week. There were lots of cavers I knew; from NCRC and people I have gone caving with. First thing I did was stand in line at registration. Then I found someone from my team (Monongahela Grotto lead by Brian Masney) and setup my tent. I spent the rest of the evening talking to folks and thinking about tomorrow. We had spot # 9 and would be landing next to the railroad tracks. I estimated that it would be an 830' rappel. It was to be my first Bridge Day; I was very excited and a little nervous. Not so much about the drop, but about the catwalk.

Saturday dawned cold and foggy. Three members of our team got up early to rig our station on the bridge. The earliest the rest of us could get on the bridge was 9am, so I decided to skip the 5am breakfast and slept until 7am. Mary and I caught a shuttle bus at 8:15am and were on the bridge at 8:30am. The security was tight. There were state and local police, US Marshals, ATF and FBI. We got down to the South Side staging area just as the safety crew was completing the pull-test on our rigging. It passed and we were cleared to go.



I got on the catwalk at 9:05 and it was not problem (much to my relief). I really enjoyed being up there and the view was wonderful. I made my first drop at 9:15 and it was great. Once you get past the superstructure it hard to tell how fast you're going. You are just hanging in space. With no wall next you, it's like being a spider on a thread. The only way to tell how fast you are going is to watch the rope or listen to the sound of the rope going thru the rack. It was amazing. When I landed the only thing I wanted to do was to do it all over again.

As it turned out I got in five rappels on Saturday, each was better then the last. For the day our team was able to do 33 rappels and 4 ascents.

I WILL definitely be doing this again next year.



Classic Cave – El Malpais National Monument

Ehren Gieske

I joined Sandia Grotto about a month ago and never heard a thing. Finally, getting tired of waiting around, I emailed a couple of people and asked if Sandia ever actually goes caving. Their online calendar sure doesn't look like it, and it has abbreviations no newbie could figure out... GypKa, ElMaP. Well it turns out ElMaP is short for El Malpais, where they are doing a survey project. As of now, there are over 300 lava tubes documented but who can settle for that? So Sandia comes in once in awhile and hunts out new tubes or surveys and inventories those they have already found. My email went out just in time to join them Saturday the 25th for a survey/inventory trip in Classic Cave.

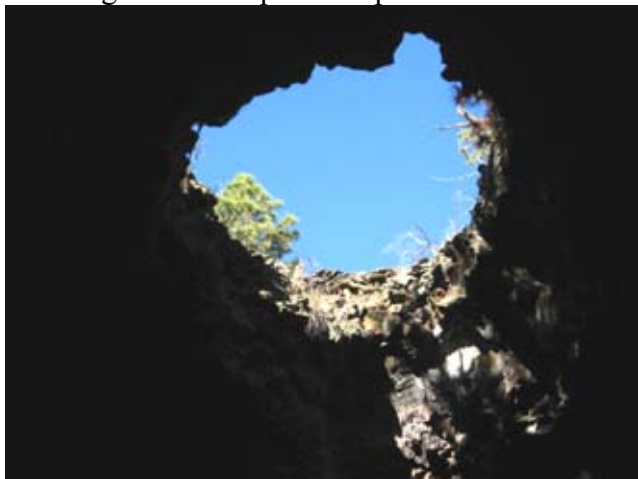
The group of cavers was meeting in Albuquerque Saturday morning at 8:30. Since that's a good three hours from my house, I chose to meet them at the monument instead. I had a good, fast drive out and beat them by a half hour, so I spent that time wandering around the little gift shop and chatting with the rangers. One showed me pictures of cars and trucks whose drivers had tried to drive in El Malpais during stormy weather... sunk into the mud well past their axles, and some up to the windows, even! I was glad we'd had a lot of dry weather lately, as one storm is all it takes to turn the roads into pools of mud out there. The group arrived around 10:30 and a round of introductions went by, after

which I promptly forgot most of the eight names thrown at me. Throughout the day I figured it out, so to share, I went caving with Victor, his wife Paula, Liz, Rose, Dan, Carl, Sam and James (no, not my James, their James), who was new to the grotto as well.

We piled back into our cars and headed down the road, turning off onto a dirt road to get to the tube in question. It was arranged that we'd stop at a place called Big Tubes, where James and I would drop off our CRVs and hop into someone else's car for the rest of the ride. Apparently the road was going to get quite bad. Quite right, too... my head nearly slammed into the side window several times on the rest of the drive. I wasn't sorry to hop out of the truck and start walking when we arrived at our stopping point. After gearing up, we headed out across a field with scattered A'a rocks (that's "ah ah," for those non lava persons and is very chunky and rubbly). Soon we came to a huge pile of the stuff, and scattered to hunt for the cairns that would tell us where to go. Incidentally, it's not a good idea to go caving in El Malpais without a GPS to find your way back. Once we got on a huge bed of A'a, the trail was very hard to distinguish from the rest of the rocks. We hiked across, all grateful to have our hiking boots, and eventually it gave way to Pahoehoe (that's the ropelike lava) and trees. A few minutes later, I could see what looked to be a canyon coming up. It turned out to be a huge collapsed lava tube, with the customary entrance at the far end. No way down those cliffs without vertical gear though... this wasn't Classic Cave. So we moved on to the other side to find another large collapse and again, not the cave we were looking for. Oh well... the group sat down to lunch.

Unlike TSG, when they say lunch out here, they're really going to eat, not inhale a granola bar and move on. I wandered around a little while they ate, climbing as far down toward the collapse as I could go without tumbling in, at which point I was kindly reminded that if I fell, they'd take my stuff. Ahh, it was good to be around cavers again. On my way back up, I had a real piece of luck... I stuck my hand on a

cactus! The next 10 minutes were spent plucking about 50 hair-sized thorns from my hand. I celebrated being able to move it again by eating my crackers, as the rest were still lunching. Then we packed up and moved on.



After fumbling about a few minutes longer, we did manage to find the cave we wanted. As we climbed down toward the entrance, we discussed running into cacti. I made some comment about how I was on guard now and wouldn't stick my hand in one again. Carl immediately began ragging me about how now that I'd said it, I was sure to do it again. Famous last words and all that. Then he sat down on a cactus and put his hand in it as well! Karma bites back. The rest of us went into the cave while Carl dropped his pants and pulled out the thorns. We split into two groups to inventory the cave (look around for bones, wood, critters, different formations, even native pottery at each survey section). We didn't find any pottery but there was some old burnt wood from torches lying here and there, and I learned a lot about various lava formations. There were many that I assumed had formed after the lava had cooled but were apparently formed while it was cooling (including a foot+ long lava straw). We wandered through the cave, the two inventory teams piggybacking each other to the next survey station, nothing lava flour, stalagmites, helectites, something called Stretches or Taffy, even something termed "The Calamari Formation" by one of the guys.

Some parts of the tube easily reached borehole proportions (one section was measured to be 60 feet wide and 35 high). Oddly enough the

largest section ended abruptly in both directions, when the lava cooled and plugged up the space. After ensuring we'd seen all of Classic Cave possible and inventoried about half of it, we headed out. No one wanted to stumble across the A'a bed after dark. Besides, we were freezing cold! It was somewhere in the 40s in the tube, despite skylights letting a little sunshine in. So we climbed up out of the collapse, pigged out again, checked out the other side of the collapse, where the cave became a natural bridge and then opened into another hole with a dead tree inside, and joked about who was going to shimmy down the rotten trunk first.



Then back across the lava, losing our way a few times, we finally made it back to the cars. One good thing about caving in a lava tube, it takes about 2 minutes to clean up and pack away your stuff; no need to change out of all that muddy gear.

We bumped our way back down the road, at which point the light was gone, and headed to Grants for dinner before going our separate ways. I'll be back again, I'm sure. Oh, and I found out what GypKa means... Gypsum Karst, where caves are like miniature versions of WV,

and occasionally one stumbles across a Lechuguilla. I can't wait to get into Carlsbad or Lechuguilla and apparently it's actually possible for me to do so... once I learn how to survey and get some more vertical experience!

Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV by Tina Blaik

On October 14, 2008 Jonathan Peterson, Tina Blaik, Ryan Keefe, and Frankie Brooks began an evening caving trip by checking the water in Cleaversburg Cave near Shippensburg, PA. The dark blue water came up to about the 7th rung on the ladder so we decided to head over to Carnegie Cave. After traversing through the forest and navigating electric fence trail we arrived at the entrance tube and headed in. We explored past the clay steps to the north western most part of the cave to see what was labeled on the map as "rice patties". As this was the only part of the cave where white root-like strings appeared we figured that must be our rice and headed back. The best part of this cave is without a doubt all the squeezes and little holes to explore followed closely by its massively muddy conditions. A great time was had by all and we look forward to going back there soon.

More Adventures in TAG

In what has become an early June tradition, I once again found myself in the hospitality of Marion O. Smith for a weekend of TAG pitting. The objective, another significant vertical trip, meaning I must climb a minimum of 800' of new-to-me pits (no repeats allowed). Marion warned that he had used up all the nearby pit clusters the year before. This time we would have to concentrate on a lot of parallel pits in a small number of contact caves. Contact caves refers to those located where the sandstone cap of the Cumberland Plateau overlies the limestone. Such caves are usually small dimension, mazy, and sometimes have shallow pits dropping from the same level. He cautioned me not to expect anything great, just a lot of pits in the 40-90 foot range.

We started as soon as I arrived on Saturday morning, after an all night drive from Maryland. Our target area was White County, Tenn., about a half hours drive from Marion's house. Sharon Jones joined us for the first pit, called Dunlap Drop. Marion already had obtained advanced permission, so our early hour did not inconvenience the landowner. This pit taped at 92'. Sharon left us to go to her nursing job, and Marion and I headed to our next stop, Rocks Drop Well. This proved to be rather involved. A climb over steep breakdown lead to a 94' pit. Marion said there were a couple of other drops in the cave, but to reach them I had to rappel back into the pit to a narrow ledge and "claw" my way over to a window about 30' down from the top. Easier said than done. I repeatedly fell off the ledge (while attached to the rope of course) into the main pit. The "clawing" concept wasn't working well for me. Next I tried to pendulum across the pit which was about fifteen feet in diameter. At least this seemed a little less nerve-wracking. I just have an aversion to falling off ledges into pits even when attached to a rope. After a few tries I managed to grab hold of a fist sized projection and was able to pull myself up into the window. From here a 21' drop lead to an alcove with a body sized hole at the far end. The small hole popped into the top of what appeared to be a fairly deep pit. This drop we taped at 99'. We spent about two hours in Rocks Drop Well playing around with all the pits.

Next we went to a cave Marion said was named Heart of Gould. I don't recall if he indicated it was a recent discovery or not, in fact I don't remember much about the cave at all (it was over four months ago that I was there). My log says we did drops of 59, 31, 52, 47, and 58 feet, for a total of 247' of ropework. You'd think I'd remember more, but I don't. The total for the first days pit bouncing was over 600' of vertical so we were off to a very good start.

Sunday saw the two of us bouncing along in Marion's old 4-WD truck as we headed back into Big Bottom, which is a part of the Caney Fork River valley, in White Co., Tenn for a

couple of miles of rough 4-wheeling. Our destination was Indianapolis Cave. Marion said he had found it the previous January (08) on a solo ridgewalk because his partner for the day had to be in Indianapolis, Indiana, hence the name selection. Marion said he already had ropes in the cave and we would be derigging it. A short, but very steep hike, took us to the entrance which was a body sized hole in jumbled breakdown filling a sink. The sink was just down hill from a logging road which Marion told me he and others had hiked on several occasions, but no one had ever noticed the hole before. It seemed a typical contact cave, starting as a crawl and never really attaining any sizeable dimensions. After a hundred feet or so we did a tricky climbdown into a stand-up room and Marion picked up a stashed rope hidden there. He wanted me to set a couple of bolts to improve the rigging on a pit he had found on an earlier trip. I did so and we each bounced this pit which I taped at 67'. Marion said we were going to drop an undone pit next. He thought this pit would be a shortcut to another part of the cave previously accessed by a different route. He gave me the honor of being first person down the virgin drop which we taped at 51'. Marion verified that it did indeed lead into the expected passage, but said that particular section had a lot of crawling and we were not going to tour it. We derigged and I thought we were finished with Indianapolis. I was wrong.

We dropped off one rope and Marion lead me through a squeeze into an adjoining maze of passages where we grabbed another stashed rope and rigged an awkward 71' pit. This dropped into a dome with a small hole beneath a ledge. Marion suggested I go first. Once I negotiated the not too friendly entrance to the pit and was safely in free-hang he asked me how deep I thought it was. There was a lot of blackness below me, and I thought it seemed pretty deep compared to the other pits we had bounced. The rappel seemed like it was more than a hundred feet. I started thinking Marion had been holding out on me. When he came down I asked him the depth and he told me 98'. I said I thought it was deeper than that, but his reply was it only seemed

deeper because we had been bouncing shallower pits all day. There was some nice decorated borehole at the bottom so I toured about a thousand feet of this while Marion climbed.



Formation borehole at the bottom of 146' pit in Indianapolis Cave, White County, Tenn.

Photo by Indiana caver, Elliot Stahl

When I got on rope I thought it seemed pretty bouncy for just a 98 footer. I climb about a foot per step, so I started counting steps. When I got to 98, I still had a good bit of pit left.



Caver rappelling the 146' pit in Indianapolis Cave, White Co., Tenn.

Photo by Elliot Stahl (Indiana)

Martinsburg house doomed for destruction

By **MICHAEL C. LEWIS** / Journal Staff Writer

“Okay, Marion, just how deep is this “98” foot pit”, I asked, as I neared the top.

He couldn’t contain himself any longer and burst out laughing,” I’ve been keeping this special for you since January”, he confessed. “Everyone involved with the mapping project (about a dozen cavers in all I later learned) was sworn to secrecy until I could bring you here. Now I can finally turn it in to the TCS (Tennessee Cave Survey).”

The “98” footer was 146’ deep, freefall, and about 10 feet in diameter until it enlarged as it dropped into the borehole near the bottom. I found it hard to believe that Marion was able to keep this secret from me for nearly six months. It was a fine pit, and I sure did appreciate all the effort Marion went to in order to preserve the surprise.

We removed all the ropes from Indianapolis Cave and hiked half a mile further along the ridge to two other small pit caves. The first was aptly named Expect a Horror Hole. It had short drops of 28 and 39 feet and was full of scary breakdown, you know, the kind that tends to move around a lot. I was glad to get out of that one. Our last stop for the day was called Great Reason. We did three drops of 33’, 44’, and a broken 64’. There was some air flow at the bottom so we left the last drop rigged. Marion said he planned to return at a later date to see if it went.

That was it for the weekend. As usual Marion did a great job of setting up the trip. The vertical total was 1,117 feet in six different caves, including a nice new-to-me hundred footer. I bade farewell and had a smile on my face the whole 600 mile drive home. Many thanks to Marion for another really fun trip.

Terry McClanathan

MARTINSBURG — Every morning on his way to work, Grant Winman passes his neighbors’ home — at least what’s left of it — constantly reminded of what happens when the forces of nature collide with the power of a municipality.

Winman’s neighbors, Justin and Lacy Duewel-Zahniser, were forced off their property weeks before Christmas 2005 when a sinkhole swallowed their home.

What was once a 2-foot hole grew into a gaping 50-foot deep sinkhole that destroyed the entire front right side of their home, crumbling the front porch and engulfing a tree in the couple’s front yard. The Duewel-Zahniser’s and their two young children have not been back to the home since being sent on their Christmas exodus.

City officials condemned the home, which is now surrounded by an orange fence and yellow caution tape, and consider it a safety hazard to the neighborhood.

The Martinsburg’s Planning and Building Department, headed by City Engineer Mike Covell, has decided to move forward with plans to demolish the home on 499 Jasmine Lane — at the expense of the homeowner.

Hopeful that the same fate does not befall his property, Winman has voiced concerns that he and the neighborhood have the responsibility the city has placed on the family to destroy its once-lived-in home





CAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 9TH - DECEMBER 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11  VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12  Grotto Meeting 7pm Elections	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15 WVCC BANQUET 7PM Hampshire Co dig 8:30 AM - see JC
Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22
Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27 THANKS GIVING	Nov 28 BLACK FRIDAY	Nov 29
Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6
Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10 Wrap presents for Red Cross 6pm at Martinsburg Mall	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13 ANNUAL GROTTO CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6PM
Dec 14 After Christmas party cave trip	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Todd in Cagels Chasm

- 1- BRIDGE DAY 2008
- 2- MORE ADVENTURES IN TAG
- 3- CLASSIC CAVE

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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