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TRISITATE

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Happy
Holidays



MERRY CHRISTMAS

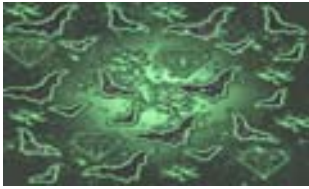
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(FULL FAMILY-*must be NSS*)(Voting rights if over 16)
(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-*non NSS*)(Voting over 16)

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
or can be SENT TO:

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The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS**. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO**.

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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.

**** 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)

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**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!**



TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP -----**\$10.00** (*Must be NSS*)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---**\$12.00** (*Non-NSS*)
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-**\$12.00** (*Non-Voting*)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----**\$2.00/FAMILY**

CAVING EVENTS

2008

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 Jctn, VT

2011

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

2012

JUN 25-30 ----- NSS Convention, Lewisburg, WV

***** 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 ----- \$15.00

Month of November ----- \$15.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$458.00

Keep It Coming!

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 DECEMBER

Priscilla Armer, Corey Hackley, Michael Hayes, Barbara Jefferson, Carlyn Pate, Janey Pate, Joe Reeves, JoBeth Wisecarver

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tri-State Grotto Meeting *November 12, 2008*

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 pm. 23 people were present.

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

We have 21 flashlights for sale. They have Tri-State Grotto on the side.

Mail call:

A few letters were read.

Bob Bennett talked about his presentation at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. 60 Girl Scouts and a lot of parents were there. It was such a busy day that Bob even had to mind the store. The Girl Scouts sent him a thank you and a check.

Old Business:

John DiCarlo talked about Grotto T-Shirts. He will send out an email with the info.

We talked about whether or not we need a web committee. We will have a VAR button on our site.

Jerry Bowen showed us a pair of coveralls that he had a bat embroidered on.

It was moved, seconded and passed to pay for food at the Fall Bash.

Trips:

Eleven people went with Bob Bennett to Whittings Neck Cave.

JC's dig will be this Sat. Meet at McDonalds, in Romney, WV. at 8:30. Fairview Cave is on the same property. It is the most northern saltpeter cave.

Carl talked about Bridge Day. He made 5 rappels.

WVCC Banquet is this Sat. 46 people are expected.

Next month the meeting will be at the mall to help the Red Cross with their Christmas Gift Wrap Event.

The Sat after the Gift Wrap will be the Grotto Christmas party.

Adam Stephen Dig - Jan 17th 2009

Cave Bucks - Will send \$15 to WVCC.

Bob Bennett held nominations and the elections. All the officers were re-nominated and elected.

Bernie Wootten adjourned the meeting at 8:00.

Submitted by
John P. Di Carlo, Jr.
Secretary
Tri-State Grotto



AFTER CHRISTMAS PARTY TRIP!

Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2008

Here it was, another Christmas party & nothing was decided as to where to go caving tomorrow. There didn't seem to be much interest this year, but Nikki Fox & Chris Coates were determined to go caving since they traveled 1.5 hr to attend the party.

We then decided to go to a couple of caves discovered by Corey Hackley by digging his way into them. Sean Wootten also was hanging around so he could tag along with us. Finally it was decided. We decided to meet Sean at 10 am near the caves.

At 9:45 am on Sunday morning Nikki, Chris, & I were still eating breakfast. It was pretty evident that we weren't going to make the meeting time. Once we were on the way I tried to call Sean but I had the wrong number in my phone. I then called Jerry Bowen to see if he would call Sean for us to let him know we would be late.

By the time we arrived we were about 40 minutes late. Sean was still hanging around so we dressed and headed for the caves.



The 1st cave we came to was already known. We explored this and took many pictures of people and formations.

The 2nd cave had a 4' X 4' entrance. Once inside we headed left and came to the 1st tight spot. Sean stopped here. Nikki, Chris & I headed on crawling to the next tight spot. The best part about the crawling was that we were crawling on mud floors instead of rocks and cobble.

I informed Nikki & Chris that we would soon be arriving at a pool of water and that we would get almost completely wet. We continued to crawl and passed through the next 2 tight spots.

Pretty soon we were in a large room big enough to stand in. There were even a few formations here and there. There were a couple of passages leading off from here.

We headed down the largest walking passage for about 100-150 feet. This ended at a formation block. Chris climbed up and looked into the breakdown & formation block for a way on. There wasn't any so we headed back to the big room.

We then headed down a crawl and explored a couple of short passages off of the crawl that didn't go. The only way on was straight ahead. We continued until we came to a tight spot. Nikki & Chris made it through but it was a little too tight for me.

Nikki & Chris headed on while I waited behind fussing at myself for regaining my weight back. I then got the bright idea to dig. After all most of the floor was mud. IT WOULD BE EASY!!

The problem was finding something to dig with. There were very few rocks available & none has any sharp edges. I continued to look and backtracked for about 100' and lo and behold I found the perfect rock! It had a pretty sharp edge on one side & a beveled edge on the other side. PERFECT!

I headed back to the squeeze and started digging furiously. I was right. The digging was pretty easy. The sharp edge of the rock broke but that was ok because the beveled edge worked better anyway!

The distance to dig looked to be at least 10' long. I was about 6 to 7 feet through when I heard Nikki come back. She asked what I was doing. Of course I told her that I wanted to see what was on the other side and then laughed.

When I got to about 1' away she started pulling dirt out the other side as I dug even more furiously. Finally I made it through! There was about another 75' of passage until it was stopped by a dig!

We then headed back to the big room. They were amazed by the vastness of the dig that I just dug open and thanked me for it.

Once we were back to the big room I remembered that we were supposed to go through a pool of water. On the way back I looked for the pool of water. It was all dried up!!!! Boy that was a first! We continued out and met up with Sean near the entrance,



From there we headed to a 30' pit that Corey discovered. The pit was uncovered by removing several large rocks from a slot.



I tied a 30' piece of webbing for a hand line and Chris slid down into the slot. The hole is tight about 3' down then opens up again, Nikki slid in next. She climbed about 1/2-way down as Chris climbed all the way down. I then tried to slide down through the tight spot. Boy was it tight. I believe that I could have let gravity and persistence pull me down through. If Nikki had trouble getting back up, I guarantee you that I would never have made it back up!

At the bottom Chris found a stream passage He explored for a while and climbed back up. Nikki climbed up but she had trouble getting back through the tight spot. It takes a lot of upper body strength to get back through. Sean and I helped her by pulling her back up through. Chris was able to muscle his way through.



We then headed back to the vehicles. On the way there was a small 1.5 wide x 2 high entrance that I told Chris he outta go into since we were there. He struggled his way through but no body else wanted to go in with him. LOLOL! He had a very graphic gesture for me as he came back out! LOLOL!

Finally it was on to the vehicles. Here there was some talk about caving and the trip back home. All in all it was a very nice and sunny day out in nature.

Bob Bennett
NSS 21847

THIS & THAT

Everyone needs to wish Lauren Rexford and Greg McCoy a hearty congratulations. On Sadie Hawkins Day, Lauren asked Greg to marry her and he accepted!!! The wedding will be held in February in New Zealand. Congrats!



Also everyone needs to wish JoBeth Wisecarver and Ben Doan a very hearty congratulations. At the recent WVCC Banquet in November, they announced that they will be getting married in the Spring of 2009.



Dogs rescued from cave

Stephanie Porter-Nichols
Smyth County News
Tue Nov 04, 2008 - 09:02 PM

By DAN KEGLEY/Staff

Smyth County, Virginia - After 12 days trapped in a cold, damp Smyth County cave, 'coon dogs Chance and his sister, Dancer, are back home in Castlewood, dug free by a backhoe on tracks Saturday.

Louis Hall was at the cave every day since the night a raccoon led his dogs through an opening into a subterranean system for which Cave Ridge Road is named. He was there Saturday when Josh McClellan's trackhoe removed about 10 feet of earth and helpers pierced the stone wall of what a day later might well have been Chance's tomb. Just beyond that wall, the light of day shone in on a dog eager to get out, and one barely holding on to life.

Chance was unable to stand. Workers handed Chance to Hall. "He was in real bad shape. His body was cold." The chill in the dog's body, Hall said, meant Chance likely was in his last hours. "He wouldn't have made it another night," Hall said Monday from his Castlewood home after feeding Chance a plate of warmed food. Hall started him out Saturday on baby formula, a little at a time, gradually adding canned dog food. By Monday, Hall gave him whatever he would eat. Chance will be on the comeback trail for some time, according to Hall, before he's recuperated enough to be back on the trail chasing raccoons.

Dancer, by contrast, would have hunted again Saturday night. "She was jumping up on the guys down in that hole," Hall said. The dogs' plight was watched by folks near and far, like hunters and Hall friends Merlin Smith, who lives near the caves, and Dean Testerman over on Pugh Mountain. Tracy Coppola of the American Humane Association in Alexandria followed the drama, along with local animal pal Joan Baldwin and the folks at the county animal control office.

On Monday, Testerman said he heard one of the dogs bark Friday. "Those dogs had a lot of heart to chase that 'coon in there," he said.

A few minutes later, Hall would say very similar words. Asked if the dogs would chase a raccoon into a cave again, he said, "Absolutely. They got a lot of heart." As do the numerous people who took turns trying to get to the dogs. A group of students from Virginia Tech had a go at it, as did other rescue groups.

The problem was the cave's geology, according to Black Diamond Search And Rescue's Bryan Saunders. The dogs' tracks led through a narrow passage too small for humans to squeeze through, but just large enough for the raccoon and the dogs that for some reason couldn't track themselves back out of the cave.

Saunders called the cave "one of the most medically challenging" he's seen, because of the cold water that had to be crawled through, potentially lowering rescuers' core body temperature and initiating hypothermia.

"It was a two-foot passage ten feet long in four inches of water," Saunders said. Hitting a literal stone wall, Black Diamond said breaching the cave wall from outside would be the only viable solution.

McClellan's trackhoe, a backhoe that maneuvers on heavy tracks like a bulldozer or tank, could cling to the slopes where the caves opened. "A rubber tire backhoe wouldn't have worked," Testerman said.

Hall knew just where to dig. The dogs' tracking collars emitted a signal he read on a monitor and could pinpoint their location. Without the collars, Hall said, the rescuers would have been clueless about the dogs' location or whether they were still in the cave at all.

On Monday, Testerman was full of thanks for those who worked to rescue the dogs. "I appreciate the help from everybody," he said. Hall had similar feelings. "I wish I had their names to thank them," he said. "I thank each and every one of them from the bottom of my heart."

http://www.swvatoday.com/comments/dogs_rescued_from_cave/news/3935/

Taken from the VAR Listserve

Subject: {wvacs} 2012 NSS Convention

Date: Sun, 9 Nov 2008 15:17:51 -0500

I wanted to send out an email announcing that the NSS Board of Governors unanimously accepted a bid for the 2012 NSS Convention (MayaCon2012) to be held in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia at the State Fair Grounds and Greenbrier East High School on June 25-30, 2012!!!! Myself and John Pearson are co-chairing a staff of hopefully hundreds!!! Stay tuned for ways to get involved!!!

Jeff Bray

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Hey, Folks,

I just got off the phone with Mr. Brown concerning leading a trip into Greenbrier Poor Farm. He said that with the exception of a certain Girl Scout troop, the cave is closed. He said that they no longer wished to deal with allowing access to the cave and decided to close it. I told him I was sorry to hear about his decision, and thanked him for allowing access in the past.

Pat Sims

Blue Ridge Grotto



John Strutting his Stuff at Polyester Power Hour

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