

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH

## TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS



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#91



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

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\*\*\* The Picture of the bats hanging on the  
formation was taken by Nikki Fox in Crossroads  
cave, Bath Co, VA.

\*\*\*\* 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  
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at [jcf@access.mountain.net](mailto: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!**



# CARIN EVENTS

## 2008

**JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
 JUL 4-6 ----- Bubble work weekend @ Nancy Hanks  
 JUL 9 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM  
**JUL 12 ----- GROTTA PICNIC @ Crystal Grottoes**  
 JUL 17-20 --- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve  
 JUL 18-26 --- NCRC Level 2 & 3 – Rockingham Co Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA  
 JUL 27 ----- PARENT'S DAY  
**AUG 11-15 – NSS Convention, Lake City, FL**  
 AUG 13 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM  
**AUG 28-31 – OTR**  
**AUG 30 ----- DOO DAH**  
**AUG 30 ----- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual POLYESTER POWER HOUR**  
**SEP 1 ----- OTR**  
**SEP 1 ----- LABOR DAY**  
 SEP 7 ----- GRANDPARENT'S DAY  
 SEP 10 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM  
**SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY (9/11)**  
 SEP 18-21 --- Gate Trout Cave  
**SEP 19-21 --- FALL VAR – COVINGTON, VA**  
**SEP 22 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX**  
 OCT 8 ----- Grotto Meeting – Grotto Auction – 7PM  
**OCT 10-12 – Fall MAR – Woodward, PA**  
**OCT 13 ----- COLUMBUS DAY**  
**OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOWS EVE**  
 NOV 4 ----- ELECTION DAY  
 NOV 8 ----- WVCC Banquet  
**NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY**  
 NOV 12 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM – Elections  
**NOV 21 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**NOV 22 ----- BLACK FRIDAY**  
 DEC 10 ----- Wrap gifts for Red Cross – 6PM at Martinsburg Mall  
 DEC 13 ----- GROTTA CHRISTMAS PARTY  
 DEC 14 ----- CAVING  
**DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE**  
**DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DEC 25 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE**

## 2009

**JUL 19-26 ---- NSS Convention, Kerryville, TX**

## 2010

**JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jnctn, VT**

**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 June ----- \$19.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: ---- \$4247.00**

# GROTTA LINKS

Tri-State Grotto website ----- [www.wobey.net/TSG](http://www.wobey.net/TSG)  
 VAR website ----- [www.varegion.org](http://www.varegion.org)  
 NSS website ----- [www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)  
 NSS Convention 2008 ----- [www.nss2008.com/](http://www.nss2008.com/)  
 OTR Website ----- [www.otr.org](http://www.otr.org)  
 MAR Website ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
 WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net](http://www.wvcc.net)  
 Andy Celmer's Web Site ---- [www.wobey.net/TSG/Andy/](http://www.wobey.net/TSG/Andy/)  
 Art Jr's Web Site ----- <http://photos.arthanson.net/>  
 Bob's Web Site ----- [www.wobey.net/TSG/Bob/](http://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](http://www.wobey.net/TSG/Ehren)  
 Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- [www.wobey.net/TSG/Jerry/](http://www.wobey.net/TSG/Jerry/)  
 Vitas's Web Site ----- [www.wobey.net/TSG/Vitas/](http://www.wobey.net/TSG/Vitas/)  
 Tina Blaik's Web Site ----- [www.kayakdream.com/](http://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/](http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/)  
 Bob Gulden's Web Page - [www.caverbob.com/home.htm](http://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](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman)  
 Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----  
 ----- [www.myspace.com/tristategrotto](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto)  
 Animated Knots by Grog ---- [www.animatedknots.com/](http://www.animatedknots.com/)  
 White Nose Syndrome -----  
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>  
 NSS Online Cavers ----- [www.onlinecavers.com](http://www.onlinecavers.com)





## MONTH OF JULY

Patricia Carter, Lynn DiCarlo, Ellie  
Florance, Jason Hajenga, Clint Parrish,  
Jep, Kathy Robinson, Nuch Songsasen,  
Kim Stanley

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

### Tri-State Grotto

#### Meeting

May 14, 2008

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 pm.

We talked about Spring 08 VAR

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

Keith Hammersla presented a certificate To Tri-  
State Grotto for help at Heritage Days.

John DiCarlo talked about the last work session  
at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

We had some new people introduce themselves.

We talked about the Harpers Ferry Outdoor  
Festival at the KOA Campgrounds.

Ted talked about and congratulated us, on the  
amount of dirt that has been moved in the Adam  
Stephen Dig.

Todd talked about Culverson Creek, Wildcat  
Entrance in Greenbrier Co. WV.

Terry went to Shovel Eater Cave. Terry told us  
that Corkscrew Cave is the deepest in the East.

This weekend is MAR.

Jerry Bowen talked about a trip to Church  
Mountain in Rockingham County.

Bob Bennett talked about Silver Cave.

May 23 Scott Hollow Jerry Bowen  
May 23 Bubble Cave Work  
May 31 Donaldson Cave clean up  
May 31 Climbing Practice  
June 5-8 SERA/VAR

Next meeting Jerry will have a video on the  
newly discovered section of Grand Caverns.

Cave Bucks - \$27 was collected and will be sent  
to SCCI. So far, Tri-State Grotto has collected  
\$4,228.00 in Cave Bucks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Submitted by

*John P. Di Carlo, Jr.*

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto

**Guess who's the new NSS President? None  
other than our own Gordon Birkhimer!!!!  
Congrats Gordon! Way ta go! Now I can say  
I've been cavin with the President!!!!**



### Tri-State Grotto

#### Meeting

6-11-08

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 PM.  
25 people were present.

Lee stood up and introduced himself; he was the  
only new person at our meeting.

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

There was a conference on the White Nose Syndrome in NY. Sixteen counties from four states; 14 states; six universities and other entities were represented.

It was reported that **Barton Cave** would stay closed throughout the summer. Some caves will close early in the fall.

JC gave us a report on The NSS gating **Trout Cave**. He told us that there is a \$35,000 budget for the gate. It will be started September 18, 2008. The Fall 09 VAR, September 19-21, may have a conservation project helping with the gating.

JC talked about the Fall 07 VAR and the amenities.

You can sign up now for trips at the fall VAR.

Corey Hackley scooped the local grotto in MA and found one of the longest caves in the state.

### **Past Trips:**

Judy Fisher talked about her trips at VAR.

Todd talked about his trip to **Omega Cave**.

Lee talked about his trip to **Perkins Cave** in TN.

Jerry talked about some of his trips.

Danny talked about his trip on Memorial Day to **Breathing Cave**.

### **Trips:**

This weekend is the **Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival**.

Lighting Project at **Crystal Grottoes Caverns** this Saturday, 10 AM-2 PM.

Jerry has a trip to **Donaldson's Cave**, Wednesday June 11, 2008

The **NSS Convention** is in Lake City, FL. The cost is \$217.00 per person.

The **Grotto Picnic** is at **Crystal Grottoes Caverns** the second Saturday in July.

**Spring VAR 09** meeting will be at 7 PM this Monday.

**Fall 09 VAR** – September 19-21

\$19 was collected for **CaveBucks**.

The program after the meeting will be, "**The Discovery of Grand Caverns**".

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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

Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 8:13 PM

To: VARLIST@LISTSERV.VT.EDU

**Subject: Please help us build the gate at Trout Cave**

Volunteers are needed to help with construction of a bat-friendly gate at Trout Cave in Pendleton County, West Virginia.

Trout Cave was historically the second largest Indiana bat hibernacula in the state and populations of this species in the cave have recently increased significantly. In order to protect and continue to restore populations of this federally-listed species, the entrances will be gated over the weekend of September 20th, which happens to coincide with the Fall VAR meeting in Covington, VA. The gate has been fully funded, primarily by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, with additional contributions coming from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Bat Conservation International, and of course, the National Speleological Society. After the gate is installed, the cave will be open for recreational and educational use seasonally from the 15th of April through Labor Day.

Volunteers are needed for Sept 18-21. Some prep work will occur on the 18th and 19th. The greatest need for volunteers will be on Saturday the 20th, with a continuing need on Sunday the 21st to wrap things up.

Arrangements to provide local camping and food for volunteers are underway.

Every effort to minimize damage to the hillside will be made, and plantings or other mitigation are also planned. Safety will of course be a major consideration. Those planning to assist should contact me at d270@bellatlantic.net. I will also be at the VAR meeting in Bristol next weekend for those that wish to discuss this with me. Additional details will be provided in subsequent postings.

The decision to gate the cave was made in accordance with the Cave Preserves' previously established management guidelines and will allow the area to be managed in a way that will maintain the Preserves' goals to protect and encourage the habitats and populations of endangered species while optimizing cave access. We recognize that the gating and winter closure is not universally supported, but are convinced that under the current conditions, this is the right thing to do. The Virginia Region has a long history of supporting the John Guilday Caves Nature Preserves' Management Committee, and we trust that support will continue. Thank you,

David West, Manager

**John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve**



### **03/29/2008 Royston's Cave *Greg McCoy***

On Saturday March 29, 2008 Janet Tinkham, Nuch Songsason, Bob Grey, Jeff Jahn, Lauren Rexford, Marie Everhart and Greg McCoy visited Royston's Cave. Royston's entrance is a 40 foot vertical that can be free climbed with a belay. The intent of the trip was to see the large drapery that Royston's is famous for and to get a little vertical practice in the process.

The cave has many decorations including the small drapery in the front part of the cave and the massive drapery in the back, and deep rim stone dams. Marie and Lauren pushed a small lead on the right trending down from the drapery room. Above the flowstone ledge in the drapery room were two small clusters of little brown bats. Short trip, some vertical, lots of decorations and a massive drapery.

### **04/13/2008 Front Royal Caverns *Greg McCoy***

On Sunday April 13, 2008, Marie Everhart, Carol Tideman and Craig Hindman, Lauren Rexford and Greg McCoy joined Janet Tinkham and Keith Christensen do a bat count at Front Royal Caverns in preparation for the pending gate repairs. Keith was accompanied by his 6 year old son Connor. The bat count turned up 39 Eastern Pipistrell bats and 3 little brown bats. Connor had a great time caving and helping Marie, Greg, Lauren, Janet and Carol check out every little cranny for bats. Keith tested the temperature at various locations to determine if Front Royal Caverns is a possible location to foster a large bat population. The outcome of the survey revealed two problems: The top part of the cave is too warm to support bat hibernation while the lower part of the cave where the temperatures are cooler is prone to flooding. With regard to the gate, we decided to repair and complete the gate to restrict human access with no additional action to make the gate more bat friendly. The gate repairs are expected to take less than a day to complete including an improved human gate allowing easier access and a hand rail along the slope into the sink below the gate. Warren County may use the cave for cave / karst / groundwater education and the handrail will facilitate access into the sink.

A clean up of the sink, cave and surrounding property will accompany the gating project scheduled for June 2008.

### **04/26/2008 Corkscrew Cave *Greg McCoy***

On April 26, 2008 Nikki Fox, Chris Coats, Kurt Waldren, Carl Amundson, Terry Mcclanathan, Brian Masney, Larry Hogston and Greg McCoy visited Corkscrew Cave in Tazewell County Virginia. The trip was a sport and photography trip. Corkscrew is home to Champaign Pit. We all arrived (most of us) at the meeting place on time and traveled to the cave. The land owner was gone on Farm Business and his wife greeted us then allowed us to drive across the property to a location near the cave.

We first went looking for Hidden Cave located on the same property but no luck renaming it "Found Cave." In the process of looking for Hidden Cave without directions Terry and Larry found a patch of Morel mushrooms. Terry picked some on his way back to the vehicles. We geared up for Corkscrew while Terry and Larry geared up for Morel mushroom hunting. Terry told us that he would follow us into the cave after he picked mushrooms. We caved through the Easy Upper Series to the main pit and rigged the rope. Terry was with us when we were ready to descend. We staged up at the bottom and prepared to tandem out while Brian Masney set up the camera to photograph the pit. Carl and Kurt went out first followed by Nikki and Chris. Nikki carried the flash unit and intermittently lit the pit during the climb out. Next Brian took all the camera gear and ascended the pit to set up the camera on the top looking down. Next Terry and Greg climbed out carrying a flash unit to provide intermittent light on the way out.

Great Pit, Good Team, Lots of Fun.

### **VAR / SERA and Grandchildren**

The VAR / SARA spring meetings were jointly held in Bristol TN in early June 2008. As did most of FRG, I looked forward to the long weekend of caving in Upper East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Having lived in Upper East Tennessee for over 20 years this meeting was like going home. Additionally I persuaded several FRG members to assist me in taking my 3 granddaughters caving on Saturday June 7, 2008.

I arranged for Shawna, the girls' mother, to bring Skylar age 10, Riley age 7 and Myracle age 3 to Morrill's Cave. Skylar and Riley had been to Morrill's before and each began caving at age 3. Skylar and Riley both went caving on or near their third birthdays. Myracle had not been caving, which was overdue since she was 3 in January. I gave Myracle a Petzl helmet for her birthday so she was ready, but her first caving trip was delayed.

Assisting me with the girls were, Lauren, Nuch, Bobby, Jeff, Dan Mullen, Edwin and his adorable wife whose name escapes me (*Lauren's note*).

We all geared up and the girls were in a hurry to get to the cave. They arrived at the entrance a few minutes ahead of me while a few others geared up and hiked a hundred yards to the cave. Skylar and Riley found a salamander in the twilight zone and were very excited to see it. This offered an opportunity to counsel them on caving ethics.

Morrill Cave was a popular cave on this Saturday. Perhaps a hundred people were just coming out of the cave, inside the cave, or going in the cave.

Skylar and Riley moved off ahead with other FRG members while Myracle and I worked at the slow pace of a 3 year old. Myracle was just getting her caving legs so the day began with many falls and lots of hand holding. As the day progressed Myracle easily picked up a walking technique, along with the butt slide and hands and knees crawling techniques. Myracle did most of the cave on her own power and unassisted. We traversed the front main section of the cave to the climb-up known as the Devil's Staircase and turned around to come out. The staircase is quite challenging if you are 3 years old or even 7, so we opted to go back outside. Other trips have proven that the staircase is just too much for really small cavers.

Near the main stream intersection (now blocked off) we met Gordon Birkhimer and his two girls, Morganna and Logan leaving the cave. Later in

the small stream, at the bottom of the Devils Staircase, a caver from another group came up to Myracle and spoke to her by name. This was Ted Durney from Mountain Empire Grotto who was leading his own group. Ted knows the girls well and it was a surprise to see him.

We stopped for snacks and water several times to rest and make the trip more enjoyable for the little ones. During one of the stops, Ted Durney and his group caught up to us so we enlisted him to take a photo of the girls with Lauren and I. Thanks Ted.



*Notice the smiles, and we were on the way out of the cave!*

On the way out we found a solitary bat. Dan Mullen and the other FRG cavers caught us at the main stream intersection climb up. Little legs move slowly although Myracle had no trouble getting up the climb. Given Myracle's small size, she just climbed beside the one-foot deep mud trenches in the low area and moved up the slope to the top with no help.

We continued out the cave and the weather outside was miserable hot. What do you do with little cavers on a miserable hot Tennessee day? Take them swimming! We went to Observation Knob Park to swim in Holston Lake. The water was cool and the air was hot. Skylar and Riley are excellent swimmers but Myracle needs a lot of attention as she does not swim yet. Bobby, Nuch, and Jeff came with us to swim, cool off and help with the waterdogs, cool off, enjoy the day and cool off. Did I mention that the intent was to cool off? Thank you, Bobby, Nuch and Jeff for all the help.



After swimming, grandpa duties included ice cream, so we went to Sonic in Bristol for ice cream before taking the girls home to momma.



Greg McCoy

## Breathing Cave, the Vertical Trip

by Nikki Fox

On Memorial Day, May 26, Chris Coates, Danny Cumbo, Jeff Noe and I headed to Breathing Cave to check out George's Gorge in the Old Section. For some reason, it seems that most who go to Breathing always explore the New Section (off to the right). Chris and I had gone on a winter trip to Breathing earlier in the year just to see this neglected section, which neither of us had been to. And we had quite the surprise in the passage! We were unable to push farther into the cave due to being blocked by two vertical drops.



So in this May trip we planned to see what

lies beyond the Gorge. We hauled our 150 feet of rope through the crawls and rigged the drop using a natural anchor and two existing bolts as a redirect. Chris was the first to rappel, then Danny, Jeff and me. At the bottom of the Gorge, we headed right and continued until the passage got tight in a gravel bed. We knew there was more passage than that, so we headed back to the drop and explored the multiple levels on the left side. We found the spot where the other drop went below.



Danny Cumbo

So we decided to head to the upper level and followed the main passage that way. The first challenging thing we came upon was a vertical mud wall that had footholds carved into it and a rope hand line that had a lot of stretch and bounce in it. On top of the embankment, we followed the same rope up another vertical slope. We found that the rope was anchored to two metal spikes driven into the mud floor! We didn't explore too much beyond that point and decided to head out due to time restraints.





There were several leads we did not check out, including the highest level passage from the Gorge. I think this is another trip to be planned in the future when we have 8-10 hours to devote to the trip.

## Hancock Cave

by Nikki Fox

On June 8, on the way back from the SERA/VAR held in Bristol, Tenn., Chris Coates, Todd Roberts, Danny Cumbo and Corey Hackley decided to find Hancock Cave in Smythe County.

After a little confusion with directions and trying to locate the parking area, Chris found the cave entrance next to a mailbox in the middle of the forest. We suited up, walked to the cave, rigged a hand line (as suggested by the registration desk) and entered. We went down about 30 feet on breakdown and then climbed up a passage to look back almost parallel to the entrance.

Another hand line was rigged down a short vertical drop with no footholds on the smooth rock. We then made our way to the Octopus Room with many different passages to choose from. We went a few different ways and eventually circled back to the same room. There were several high leads we did not take and opted to follow the main trunk passage further into the cave.



This main passage was sloping and a little exposed since you could see the lower level in some holes in the ground. We eventually made it to a crawl in a stream bed. On the other side we found a flood kit with a warning saying that if you had not checked the weather forecast for the day, you should turn around and head back.



Nikki

From this point, the cave changed. The passage was lower, had more crawls and was decorated with formations. We made our way to a wall covered in formations. We stopped to take a group portrait and make photos of the area's speleothems. We spent a little more time pushing the passage, but decided to turn around and head back out

for our long drive home still ahead of us.



On our way out, we all counted over 20 orange and black speckled cave salamanders hanging out near the entrance. I have never seen so many convened in the same area. This cave is definitely worth a return trip!

## TRIP LOG

3/15 ----- Moses Tomb, Dekalb Co, AL -----  
Haven't visited since 1978 – 230'  
----- Mystic Well, Dekalb Co, AL -----  
New (to me) pit – 62'  
----- Sandstone Monument Pit, Dekalb Co, AL -----  
New (to me) pit – 83'  
Terry McClanathan & Doug Strait – AM trips - Normally dry pits – Thunderstorm dumped 2" of rain in an hour – Got repeatedly soaked!  
2/15 ----- Rustys Cave, Dade Co, GA -----  
Doug & Terry – PM trip – owned by SECC – 40' drop into middle of well decorated stream passage – 1400' long – Quite a treat – Spent about 2 hrs ogling the pretties  
3/2 ----- Kenny Simmons Cave, Randolph Co, WV -----  
Todd Roberts, Ehren Gieske, Danny Cumbo, & 6 others  
3/16 ----- Coulter Pit, Walker Co, GA -----  
Nice 51' open air pit – 1<sup>st</sup> time visit  
----- Allen Spring Gap Cave, Walker Co, GA -----  
Very nice 500' horizontal cave – Dips steeply to a depth of about 150' – Beautifully decorated – Marion O. Smith says it might be the prettiest cave in the state – Remote location & tiny entrance probably keep it in near pristine condition  
3/8 -- Crystal Grottoes Cavern, Washington Co, MD ----  
Ehren Gieske, John DiCarlo, Bernie, Sean, & Wootten clan along with others worked on cleaning formations  
3/21 ----- Grand Caverns, Rockingham Co, VA -----

Jerry Bowen & Bob Bennett - Easter Restoration work trip  
– Went in to see damage & repair work to electrical service

----- Jefferson Cave, Rockingham Co, VA -----

Jerry, Bob, Roy, & Yolanda – Tough little cave!

----- Almost Forgotten Cave, Rockingham Co, VA -----

Jerry, Bob, Roy, & Yolanda

3/21 ----- Crossroads Cave, Bath Co, VA -----

Nikki & Chris – Went to sections we haven't been to –

Made a loop with the small man's shortcut – 8 hr

3/24 --- Harpers Ferry Caverns, Jefferson Co, WV -----

Ehren Gieske & Corey Hackley – Dug on small hole

3/26 ----- Ridgewalk, Jefferson Co, WV -----

Bob Bennett – Found several sinks & 1 huge sink full of trash – Did find 1 active sink with 3.5 – 4 foot hole going down at about 45 degrees for 6-8 feet – Would require lots of digging to open

3/29 ----- Glade Cave, VA -----

Nikki Fox & Chris Coates – Wanted to get underground somewhere close – Cave wasn't that wet at all, not the classic mud hole! – 6 hr

3/29 ----- Roystons Cave, Warren Co, VA -----

Janet Tinkham, Nuch Songsasen, Bob Gray, Marie

Everhart, Jeff Jahn, Lauren Rexford, & Greg McCoy –

Impressed with this little gem – Loaded with formations, rimstone dams, & tight crawlways

3/30 ---- Dam #6 Cave, Washington Co, MD -----

Jerry & Hazel Bowen – Located entrance while driving by – Concrete seal has been compromised

Apr ----- Stoney Creek in PA -----

John Roche – Paddled the creek – Found a cave nearby to get out of a lightning storm

4/1 ----- Ridgewalk, Jefferson Co, WV -----

Bob Bennett – Found several small sinks & 1 larger sink full of trash

4/12 ----- Porters Cave, Bath Co, VA -----

Eric & Earle Berge, Mark Bishop, & 10 scouts & leaders – fun to watch boys half my size get stuck in a crawl that I just went through

4/12 ----- Crystal Grottoes Caverns, Wash Co, MD -----

Ehren Gieske, Bob Bennett, Chris, Tyler, Jonathan, Abigail, Bernie, & Sean Wootten, Jerry Downs, Josh Norris, Mike Calloway, & John DiCarlo – Hauled 10,000 lb of gravel & resurfaced 900' of tour trails in the cave

4/12 --- Culverson Creek System, Greenbrier Co, WV ---

Jep, Todd Roberts, Dane Wagle, Jon Peterson, Ken Tayman, Pat Minnick, Gordy Ley, & Danny Cumbo – Removed rock blocking passage in the Wildcat Entrance –

High water blocked passage deeper into the cave after a few hundred feet – Explored the SSS portion of the system

4/13 ----- Lost World Caverns, Greenbrier Co, WV -----

Pat, Jon, Ken, Dane, Gordy, Todd, & Danny – Rappelled the Grapevine Entrance

4/13 ----- FT ROYAL CAVERNS, Warren Co, VA -----

Marie Everhart, Carol Tideman and Craig Hindman, Lauren Rexford, Tinkham, Keith Christensen, and Greg McCoy – Bat count – 39 pips & 3 little browns

4/16 ----- Jones Quarry Cave, Berkeley Co, WV -----

Bob Bennett, Jerry & Stephen Bowen, & Terry McClanathan – Showed Terry Hogbins Addition – Terry dropped the pit & we taped it at 28.5’

4/19 ----- **Paxtons Cave**, Allegheny Co, VA -----  
 Jeff Jahn, Nuch Songsasen, Bob Gray, Janet Tinkham, Eric & Earle Berge, & Mark & Justin Bishop – JJ our trip leader led us to the Christmas Room & many other awesome pretties

4/19 ---- **Jones Quarry Cave**, Berkeley Co, WV -----  
 Linda Kling, Ellie Florance, & Boy Scout Troop 22 from Stephens City, VA (6 boys & 2 leaders)

4/20 ----- **Donaldson Cave**, Berkeley Co, WV -----  
 Jerry & Stephen Bowen, Amber Morrow & youth group from Frederick, MD

4/26 ----- **Ft Royal Caverns**, Warren Co, VA -----  
 Lauren Rexford, Greg McCoy, Janet Tinkham, Keith & Conner Christenson, Carol Tideman, & Marie Everhart – Bat survey while Craig Hindman stayed top side drawing gate designs & playing with sticks

4/26 ----- **Corkscrew Cave**, Tazewell Co, VA -----  
 Nikki Fox, Chris Coats, Kurt Waldren, Carl Amundson, Terry McClanathan, Brian Masney, Larry Hogston and Greg McCoy – Home of Champagne Pit - Great Pit, Good Team, Lots of Fun

4/30 ----- **Silvers Cave**, Berkeley Co, WV -----  
 Bob Bennett, Jerry Bowen, Todd Roberts, Jeff Marcum, Chuck Stanley, & a handful of local people – Turned into a dig

Early May --- **Jewel Cave**, Black Hills NP, SD -----  
 Dan Austin, Nikki Fox, & Chris Coates – 8 hr trip – 8 or the 142 mi system

Tue in May --- **Jewel Cave**, Black Hills NP, SD -----  
 Benny Armstrong Miller, Nikki, & Chris – Saw hydromagnesite balloons

Wed of May --- **Wind Cave**, Black Hills NP, SD -----  
 Jason Walz, Nikki, & Chris – Lots of amazing boxwork - 127 mile system

Early may ---- **Fulford Cave**, White River, CO -----  
 Ken & Tracy Headrick, Nikki, & Chris – Alpine cave – Colder in entrance room than outside – Had to dig snow from entrance tube

5/3 ----- **Church Mt Cave**, Rockingham Co, VA -----  
 Sean & Bernie Wootten & Jerry Bowen – Hastily planned trip

5/10 ---- Heritage Day, Martinsburg, WV -----  
 “Adam Stephens Day” – Bob, Paulette, Linda, John Roche – Tours of both Adam Stephen digs

5/17 -- **Crystal Grottoes Cavern**, Washington Co, MD ----  
 Jerry & Mary Bowen, Melissa & James Molinaux, Keith Potts & 2 kids, & host of TSG members – evening party

5/18 ---- **Penns Cave**, Centre Co, PA -----  
 Jerry & Mary Bowen, George Adams, Allison Hazen, & singles group from Frederick (total of 9)

5/23-26 ---- Bubble Weekend, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Jep, Gordon Birkhimer, Lauren Rexford, Greg McCoy, Bob & Paulette Bennett, Jerry Bowen, Judy & JC Fisher, Corey Hackley, Twila Neeld, Bernie & Sean Wootten

5/23 ---- **Scott Hollow Cave**, Monroe Co, WV -----

Jerry Bowen, Sean & Bernie Wootten, Corey Hackley & Joe \_\_\_\_\_

----- **Argobrites Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Located cave & owner – Cave is closed

----- **Lunchbox Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 ----- **Bubble Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 ----- **Rosebush Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Jerry, Sean, Bernie, Corey, Joe

5/24 ---- **Richards Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 ----- **Higginbothams #2 Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV ---  
 ----- **Higginbothams #1 Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV ---  
 ----- **Higginbothams #5 Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV ----  
 ----- **Higginbothams #4 Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV ----  
 Jerry, Bernie, Sean, Corey, & Joe

5/24 ---- **Frog Hollow Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Jep, Bob, Greg, Lauren, Twila, Pete, Bill, & others – Nice easy walking stream borehole

----- Frog Hollow Ridgeway, greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Same people – found quite a few small caves, openings, karst features, & sinkholes

5/24 ---- **Bowden Cave**, Randolph Co, WV -----  
 Ehren & Maria Gieske & Steve \_\_\_\_\_ - Steve’s 1<sup>st</sup> cave – Went up Watercourse – Saw & smelled worlds biggest dump!

5/24 ----- **Bone Cave**, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Bob, DJ, & Justan Bennett & Sid Hayes – Sid’s 1<sup>st</sup> cave – Everyone really had a good time!

5/25 ---- **Crossroads Cave**, Bath Co, VA -----  
 Jerry, Bernie, Sean, Corey, & Joe

5/24-25 ---- **Gap Cave**, VA, KY, & TN -----  
 Terry McClanathan, Cheryl Pratt, Bob Alderson, & Marion O. Smith – Our collective ages total 231 years – An “old geezer” survey trip – Entered thru Cumberland Gap Saltpetre Cave pit entrance – 16 hours – 200’

5/26 ----- **Breathing Cave**, Bath Co, VA -----  
 Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Danny Cumbo, & Jeff Noe – Historic Section – Dropped Georges Gorge & explored many passages in that section of the cave

5/31 ---- Vertical Practice at John DiCarlo’s -----  
 John DiCarlo, Ehren Gieske, Todd Roberts, Bob Bennett, Carl Amundson, & \_\_\_\_\_ - Practiced changeovers

6/3 ---- **Coffin Cave**, Lee Co, VA -----  
 Named so because coffins dropped into cave after cave-in

----- **Spurlock Cave**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 Starts with nice borehole & ends with water-filled passage with nice waterfall & lots of scallops

----- **Unnamed Cave**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 Corey dropped down drain & briefly disappeared

----- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Cave**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 ----- **Henrys Cave**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 Undocumented cave

----- **Riggs Chapel Cave**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 Corey climbed down pit

----- **Natural Tunnel SP**, Scott Co, VA -----  
 Got to the entrance as a train came by – Headlight lit the tunnel walls

Danny Cumbo, Todd Roberts, Corey Hackley, Jerry Bowen

6-4 ----- **Morrells Cave**, Sullivan Co, TN -----  
 ----- **Appalachian Caverns**, Sullivan Co, TN -----



Jerry Bowen, Sean & Bernie Wootten, Ben Doan, Jobeth Wisecarver, & Eli the dog  
 6/5-8 ----- SERA / VAR, Bristol, TN -----  
 Carl & Sandy Amundson, Bob & Paulette Bennett, Eric Berge, Gordon Birkhimer, Jerry Bowen, Danny Cumbo, Ben Doan, Jobeth Wisecarver, Barry Duncan, JC & Judy Fisher, Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Bob Gray, Nuch Songsasen, Corey Hackley, Greg McCoy, Jeff Noe, Jep, Lauren Rexford, Todd Roberts, Janet Tinkham, & Bernie & Sean Wootten  
 6/5 ----- Perkins Cave, Washington Co, VA -----  
 Sean & Bernie Wootten, Jerry Bowen, Ben Doan, Jobeth Wisecarver, James Durst, & host of others  
 6/5 ----- Cat Hole, TN -----  
 Lauren, Greg & others  
 6/6 ----- Grays cave, Russell Co, VA -----  
 Jerry, Sean, & Bernie  
 6/6 ----- Rattling Cave, TN -----  
 Greg, Lauren, Nuch, Bob, Jeff, Eric, & Mark – 135' entrance pit & lots of pretties – Lots of Guano!  
 6/6 ----- Morrells Cave, Sullivan Co, TN -----  
 JC, Judy, & Bob – Great stream passage – easy walking for a couple of 1000 feet!  
 6/6 ----- Spurlock Cave, Scott Co, Va -----  
 JC, Judy, & Bob – Nice borehole – Lots of scallops – Nice waterfall in back of cave  
 6/7 ----- Morrells Cave, Sullivan Co, TN -----  
 Grandchildren Skylar (10), Riley (7), Miracle (3), Greg, Lauren, Nuch, Bobby, Jeff, Dan, Edwin, & Edwin's wife – Skylar & Riley found a salamander in the twilight of the cave – Went swimming in the heat after the cave trip  
 6-7 ----- Morrells Cave, Sullivan Co, TN -----  
 Gordon, Morgana, & Logan Birkhimer  
 6/7 ----- Franklin Pit, TN -----  
 35' entrance pit & 55' inside cave pit  
 ----- Parsons Cave, TN -----  
 Large borehole  
 Eric Berge, Mark Bishop, & Janet Tinkham  
 6/7 ----- Waterfalls in NC -----  
 ----- Waterfalls in TN -----  
 Hell of a hike in the heat  
 ----- Gray's Sinkhole Site, TN -----  
 Judy, JC, Paulette, & Bob  
 6/8 ----- Hancock Cave, Smythe Co, VA -----  
 Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Todd Roberts, Danny Cumbo, & Corey Hackley – Saw over 20 orange & black speckled salamanders  
 6/14 - Harpers Ferry Outdoor Festival, Jefferson Co, WV -  
 Bob, Paulette, Linda, Tina Blaik, \_\_\_\_\_, JD Hicks, JJ, Janey, & Carolyn Pate – set up caving display  
 6/14 -- Crystal Grottoes Cavern, Washington Co, MD ---  
 John DiCarlo, The Wootten Clan, & others – Put up new lights & rewired some sockets  
 6/18 ----- Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV -----  
 Jerry Bowen, Ellie Florance, & Joe reeves – Got wet to our necks following Ellie around  
 6/21 ---- Frog Hollow Cave, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Jep, Gordon Cole & Larry Fisher – explored high leads  
 6/28 ---- Ft Royal Caverns, VA -----  
 20 people finished gate & handrails in sinkhole

6/28 ---- Frog Hollow Cave, Greenbrier Co, WV -----  
 Jep, Bill Balfore, & others – Survey – 1654'  
 6/28 ---- Gap (Cudjos) Cave, VA -----  
 Bob, Dusty, & Irma Gulden – Quick trip  
 6/30 ---- Great Onyx Cave, Mammoth Cave NP, KY ----  
 Bob, Dusty, & Irma – Continued profile down Cox Ave – 4.2 mi  
 7/1 ---- Great Onyx Cave, KY -----  
 Bob & Dusty Gulden & Bryan Garness – Continued profile down Cox Ave  
 7/2 ---- Couple of tiny caves, Dominican Republic -----  
 Bill & Fiord'aliza Vis  
 7/3 ---- Great Onyx Cave, KY -----  
 Bob Gulden, Dusty Gulden – Continued profile down Cox Ave  
 ----- Great Onyx Cave, KY -----  
 Bob & Dusty Gulden, Bonnie Deshong, & Roger Brucker  
 7/4-6 -- Nancy Hanks Work Weekend, Mineral Co, WV ---  
 Jep, Bob, Jerry, Judy, JC, Mary, Brice, Mark & others  
 7/5 -- Ridge walked Nancy Hanks area, Mineral Co, WV --  
 Same – Found the following:  
 ----- Clarks Mt Cave -----  
 ----- Clarks Shelter #1 Cave -----  
 ----- Clarke Shelter #2 Cave -----  
 ----- Clarke Waterfall #1 Shelter Cave -----  
 ----- Clarks Waterfall #2 Shelter Cave -----  
 ----- Clarks Waterfall #3 Shelter Cave -----  
 ----- Clarks Waterfall #4 Shelter Cave -----  
 Took GPS readings & photos – Judy, Mark, & Jep got stung by yellow jackets



Bob's 1<sup>st</sup> changeover in 10 years



# SAVIN CALENDAR

## JULY 6TH - AUGUST 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Jul 6</b> Nancy Hanks Work Weekend Bubble	Jul 7	Jul 8	<b>Jul 9</b>  Grotto meeting 7pm	Jul 10	Jul 11	<b>Jul 12</b> Grotto Picnic at Crystal Grottoes 12 noon
Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18	Jul 19
					NCRC Level2 & 3 Karst-O-Rama	
Jul 20	Jul 21	Jul 22	Jul 23	Jul 24	Jul 25	Jul 26
NCRC Level2 & 3 Karst-O-Rama						
Jul 27	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31	Aug 1	Aug 2
Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9
Aug 10	Aug 11	Aug 12	<b>Aug 13</b>  Grotto meeting 7pm	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16
NSS Convention						

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Spotted Salamander in Caldwell

**1- SERA / WAR GAVING**

**2- BREATHING CAVE - "THE VERTICAL TRIP"**

**3- HANGOCK CAVE**

## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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