

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**  
**TRI-STATE GROTTO**

**KEYSTONE RIVER**

**246' DROP**

**VOL. #23**

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**2008**

**#105**



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

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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Aaron Moses. It shows the 246' drop in Keystone Cave.

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.

\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net) or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at [jcf@access.mountain.net](mailto: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**

# CAMMIN EVENTS

## 2008

- SEP 1 ----- OTR
- SEP 1 ----- LABOR DAY
- SEP 2 ----- Last day for Fall VAR registration discount
- SEP 3 ----- Black Log Cave
- SEP 7 ----- GRANDPARENT'S DAY
- SEP 10 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7PM (09 VAR meeting at 6:30 PM)
- 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 11 ----- FALL BASH AT FISHER'S LANDING
- OCT 13 ----- COLUMBUS DAY
- OCT 25 ----- Kochen Cave – see Danny Cumbo
- 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 27 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY
- NOV 28 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
- DEC 10 ----- Wrap gifts for Red Cross – 6PM at Martinsburg Mall
- DEC 13 ----- GROTTO 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 Jctn, 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 July ----- **\$21.00**

Month of August ----- **\$13.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4281.00**

# GROTTO 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 2009 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
- 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/>
- Art Jr's 2<sup>nd</sup> Web Site ----- <http://www.tristategrotto.org/>
- 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)



# GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

## MONTH OF AUGUST

Matt Amundson, Jeff Bowen, Jerry Bowen, Ryan Brandenburg, Carolyn Carter, John DiCarlo, Linda Kling, Alan Knowlton, Jason Moreland, JJ Pate, David Robinson, Jordan Walthers

## MONTH OF AUGUST

Tyler Brandenburg, Art Hanson Sr, Karen Kehs, Ann Muldoon, Twila Neeld, Rosah Reeder, John Roche, Cheryl Suitor, Bill Jones

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Tri-State Grotto Meeting July 9, 2008

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7 pm.

Skip, Brad, Garth, Lee and Jason all introduced themselves as new people who have not been to a meeting before.

Chuck gave the treasurers report. It was moved, seconded and passed.

Mail call. Bernie read through some of the mail.

### *Old Business*

We talked about the 501c3 status.

John talked about the electric work at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

Bob talked about the outdoor festival at Harpers Ferry.

### **New Business.**

Bob talked about OTR.

### *Trip Reports*

Jerry took some people to Donaldson's Cave.

Front Royal Grotto gated Front Royal Caverns.

Bob went to Mineral County with some Bubble People.

### **Upcoming Events.**

The Grotto Picnic is this Saturday at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

Aug 11-15 NSS Convention

Aug 10 Natural Chimney trip. Meet at 12 noon.

VAR meeting will be before the August Grotto meeting. The time will be 6:30 pm.

Aug 28- Sept 1 OTR

We collected \$21 in Cave Bucks. It will go to SCCI.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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



**Tri-State Grotto**  
**Meeting**  
**8-13-08**

Abby Wootten hammered the meeting open at 7 pm. 28 people were present. All officers were in attendance.

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

Jerry Bowen talked about three cavers lost in Bowden Cave.

VAR – Linda Kling talked about the trip to Natural Chimneys. We will have the whole place to ourselves. Bob's Big Beef will do dinner.

We talked about getting another order together for grotto t-shirts.

Art Hanson talked about the doodah parade.

Jerry C. talked about a trip to Trout Cave. They saw clusters of bats in the cave.

Jerry Bowen said the water is down in Donaldson Cave. There were a number of names found. James Booth and Adam Ruder or Reader 1863.

There is a cave trip the last Sat of October to Kochen Cave. There are 7 traverses in the cave. There are three ropes in the climb out section at the entrance.

We talked about a set of aerial photo plates of Berkeley County. There were questions about format and resolution.

**Trips:**

Aug 28-Sept 1 OTR

September 20-21 VAR

September 3 - Wednesday Night Caving. This time the trip will be to Black Log Cave.

Cave Bucks took in \$13, which will go to SCCI.

Bernie Wootten adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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

**ANNUAL FALL BASH**

The annual Fall Bash will be held again this year at Fisher's Landing near Romney, WV on Sat, Oct 11. Judy & JC Fisher have graciously invited everyone to their river lot for rappelling & climbing the wall. The climbing wall will be rigged and JC will make arrangements for those who want to rappel 'the Big One'! The smaller 70' cliff will not be rigged (unless someone wants to take the extra time to rig it) (it takes 2 hr or more to rig it)!

Judy & JC will be furnishing hot dogs, hamburgers, brisket, & soft drinks. Please bring a covered dish to share with everyone! Bring your families and share in the camaraderie! There will be plenty of climbing equipment to try out. If you want to practice change-overs, this is a perfect opportunity. The climbing wall will be rigged with several ropes for just this purpose.

Bring your swim suits. According to Judy & JC the river is warm (of course this WILL be OCT!!!)

If you are planning to attend please let us know (RSVP)! This will give Judy & JC an idea as to how much food they will need!!!!!!  
If you need directions let me know!  
We'll be seeing you there!!!!!!

bob

# TRIP REPORTS

## Western Wonderland

by Nikki Fox

In early May, I took Chris Coates with me on my first trip home to the rolling fields of corn in central Nebraska in five years. My mission was to see the family and get underground as much as possible in what I lovingly refer to as my "old backyard," which consists of western Nebraska, South Dakota, eastern Wyoming and Colorado.

And so the voyage started by packing the car and hitting the road after dark and driving the first leg of our trip: 20 hours to Sioux Falls, S.D. We were contacted by caver Bonny Armstrong, a Park Ranger at Jewel Cave, almost at our destination telling us of a freak blizzard that hit the Black Hills in South Dakota. We were unaware that we were heading further into the cold front with heavy rain and 30-degree temperatures. Our plans were to camp and rappel the next day at Palisades State Park. Needless to say, we opted for a hotel room.

That was the least of our worries, as Bonny told us Interstate 90 was shut down from Wall, S.D. into Wyoming. How were we going to get to the Black Hills? We would have to backtrack into northern Nebraska and take highways to access the southern part of the Hills. Fortunately, the next day reached temperatures in the 50s and the 13 inches of snow melted upon arrival the next evening.

### Black Hills Caving

We were excited to have three caving trips lined up in two world-class caves: Jewel and

Wind Caves. Sunday we arrived bright and early for our first trip underground into Jewel. Dan Austin, the Paha Sapa Grotto vice chair (which is the only South Dakota grotto), took us underground for an eight-hour trip. He took Chris and I on a measly couple-mile tour amid the 142 miles of cave. Jewel is the second longest cave in the world, only to be surpassed by the Mammoth Cave System in nearby Kentucky.

As a South Dakota native, Dan is certified by the National Park System as a trip leader. He told us it took 100 hours of logged underground time to become one. I think it would be easy tooling around 142 miles of passage and surveying new passage to build up 100 hours.



Manganese

The main difference for us, being eastern cavers, was the manganese present in Jewel. The manganese dioxide, called pyrolusite, covered the floors of all the lower passages in the cave. It looked like dark shale covering the floor in chips and slabs. Unknowing to the caver, if you stepped on them, you would break apart the deposits and would release a monster to reckon with. Once you break up the manganese, it turns into a thick, oily, slick surface that stains everything you touch.

A distinctive path showed the way where everyone had been before us. You could tell if someone had strayed from the established route by a single step. Also, the walls were covered in the black manganese where

people used formations as handholds. It was strange for us not being able to go our own way and check out leads as we seemed fit. We became very aware of all of our movement and it was clear that we had to stay on the path to preserve the beauty of the cave.

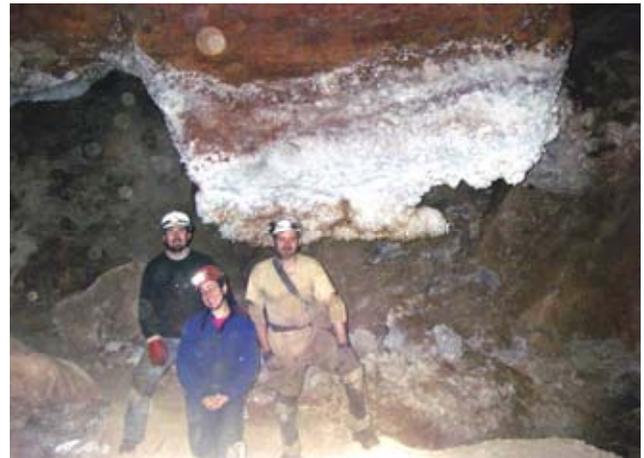


Nailhead spar

Dan knew his cave very well. He was constantly throwing facts at us along the way. Things like the nailhead spar that we saw on the walls covered about 80 percent of the cave. It supposedly varied from an inch to 2.5 feet thick in the lower levels. We mostly saw 6 to 10-inch thick nailhead spar, which gives great traction under the slick manganese residue. Dan also told us of how climatologists have been conducting studies on the air flow of the cave. By calculating how much Jewel breathes, things like cave volume and connections to other caves can be better determined. He said that from the current air volume, anywhere from 5-50 percent of the cave has been discovered. Now that's a lot of cave to survey!

There is also the mysterious "white stuff" that appears in Jewel. This very technical name is given to this white residue that appears to cover the walls in the lower levels of Jewel. Dan said the mineral content has been tested and scientist still do not know what the compound is made of or how it forms in the cave. Hence, the highly scientific name of "white stuff" was born.

Jewel cave is also the first cave for both Chris and I to encounter moonmilk. It is a white gummy material with the consistency of cottage cheese. It looks like normal white calcite or aragonite deposits on the walls and the only way to tell for sure that it's moonmilk is to touch it, thus destroying the area. Moonmilk is actually a magnesium carbonate compound.



Bunyan's Foot

The highlight and destination of our tourist trip into Jewel was to see the amazing frostwork at Bunyan's Foot. This huge formation, which looked like the foot of a giant, hangs over a breathing tube that leads down from the loft level to the next lowest level. Once climbing up to these levels, the cave changes dramatically. There is no more nailhead spar, but only delicate sand formations lining the walls with colors of red, tan, yellow, white and black. We even saw bat scratches, evidence from long ago of a bat population in the cave miles from the natural entrance of today.

Bunyan's Foot was the most amazing frostwork I've ever seen. The fragile white hairs ranged from tiny little things you can see in Virginia's highly decorated cave of Paxtons to several inches long. I felt as if I would break them if I breathed too hard. The entire rock was covered with frost, as was the area below it. We stopped there to eat lunch, being mindful not to drop any crumbs on the cave floor, and take photos.



Frostwork on Bunyan's Foot

One interesting thing I noticed was that there were many features and passages that were unnamed. Many squeezes and rooms that were forgotten to the many other miles of "better" passage. I guess it would be too much naming everything. You would have a list of place-names 50 pages long in a cave like Jewel.



Balloons

Tuesday we had Bonny Armstrong, the Park Ranger at Jewel Cave, take us on another tourist trip into Jewel. Our underground destination was to see the hydromagnesite balloons. They're formed from a similar substance as moonmilk and look to be pearlescent bubble gum bubbles. The first kind of this speleothem was discovered in Jewel and have since been found in other caves such as Lechuguilla. These balloons are hollow inside and are very fragile. These deflated or buckled ones are called crinkle blisters.

During both of our Jewel Cave trips we heard many stories and lore concerning the original explorers of Jewel: Herb and Jan Conn. From 1959 to 1979 Herb and Jan mapped 62.36 miles of cave and their marks are present in the cave still today. Although they both have been retired from caving for over 20 years, they are both alive and in their 80s.

Wednesday we had a survey trip planned in Wind Cave — the other National Park Service-owned cave in the Black Hills. This time Park Ranger Jason Walz, who is originally from North Carolina, would be leading us through this tiny-passaged, third longest cave in the United States. Wind is most famous for its amazing boxwork that is everywhere.

We arrived in the afternoon ready to help resurvey a passage that hadn't been visited since it's original survey in the 1980s. We had been warned that this cave had a lot more crawling and was more like swiss cheese with the 127 miles of cave in multiple levels all sandwiched on top of each other. Wind was rather dry and sandy in the part we went to.



Boxwork

The boxwork ranged from paper thin to half-inch in thickness. In one section, we saw popcorn growing on the ends of the boxwork. Apparently, regular formations we see here

in the east, like flowstone, stalagmites, columns, drapery, soda straws, etc., are very rare in Wind due to the lack of water in the caves. Jason took us by one of the highly-decorated rooms in the cave, which had water and white flowstone. Not very impressive for us, just regular cave speleothems, but pretty none the less.

An odd difference from eastern versus westerns cavers is attire. Jewel is 49 degrees and Wind is 53 degrees. The standard cave garb of choice for both caves is BDU bottoms and a short-sleeve synthetic top with a poly pro top in your pack. To me this seems to be very underdressed. What would happen if someone was injured? The person would be hypothermic in a short amount of time. We were warned by many people not to wear our cave suits because we would be too hot. This was not the case for me. I wore my coveralls all three days underground and actually got cold each time because I wore less clothes underneath the suit then I normally would wear!

Also, the Park Service has a rule about how cavers wear their cave packs. No backpacks allowed, only side packs can be worn. I can see how this is needed in Wind cave with delicate boxwork covering everything. In Jewel it simply was a hassle.

## Colorado Caving

I was fortunate to find Colorado caver Ken Headrick on the new NSS "CaveSpace." As a native, Ken was very knowledgeable of the alpine caves in Colorado. He and his wife, Tracy, took us into a popular cave in the White River National Forest called Fulford Cave. We drove to the area the night before and awoke to a snow storm in the morning. We meet Ken and Tracy that morning and drove out to the cave. The snow prevented us from driving to the normal parking area below the cave. So we had to hike two miles up the mountain from 9,000 feet to 10,000 feet to Fulford entrance in knee-deep snow. Ken took the lead, breaking the trail in the

snow. The view of the valley was amazing and so beautiful blanketed with alpine trees in snow.



Once we hiked to the entrance, we found the culvert leading into the cave was buried in snow on the side of the mountain. Someone left a little backpacking "pooper scooper" nearby and we used that to clear the entrance. Supposedly, the snow was covering about 20 feet of the culvert.



Entrance to Fulford Cave

Once we made our way down, the entrance room was colder than it was outside! We went past several ice formations and columns in the entrance section and finally made it into the main part of the cave where it was warmer.



Ken took us on several loops in Fulford, one of which had a room called Moonmilk Corridor. In this passage, both walls, about 25 feet tall, were covered in moonmilk. Water was actually dripping out of the milk, which acted like a sponge holding the water. Generally the cave looked much like what were used to seeing in the East. The passages had breakdown, squeezes, exposure, a stream, stalagmites and other formations.

There was very little vandalism in the cave, which is surprising because of the traffic it gets from spelunkers. Most of the formations within reach were damaged, but there was little graffiti or carbide burns on the walls. If this cave were in TAG, Bobby Joe would mark his e-mail address in pink spray paint all over the cave.

We spent about three hours underground and left for our hike down the mountain to our car. We decided to go sled ridding without a sled down the steep 100-foot embankment near the cave entrance. Woo-hoo!

#### Other Highlights

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Chris and I did spend some time devoted to seeing other outdoor wonders in our travels. We spent an evening at Devil's Tower hiking around the base during sunset.



We also hiked Harney Peak, the highest point east of the Rocky Mountain Range in the U.S., with snow still on the ground from the snowstorm earlier in the week. The Badlands were another stop along our trail. We didn't have a lot of time, so we drove the scenic loop in the car. We paid respect to the 300 killed at Wounded Knee Massacre on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

We tried to camp, yet again, at Nebraska's Toadstool Park in the Sandhills. We set up camp with no one else there, had a few beers and then got hit by a spring rainstorm. We waited a couple hours for it to pass, but it kept raining harder. So we quickly tore down camp and drove the 20 miles back to a paved road. We were lucky to make it out of there on the sandy, rutted road.

Also, we visited all of my family members in Nebraska and Iowa, and Chris was a big hit. We ended our trip with some rappelling practice at Ram's Head at the New River Gorge in West Virginia. It was a great trip and we learned a lot about caves in my "old backyard." Cannot wait to make it back there again!

## Rumbling Falls Cave

by Rickey Shortt & Nikki Fox

July 4, 2008

Rickey Shortt, Dave Socky, Aaron Moses, Carl Cornett, Chris Coates, Nikki Fox, Will Urbanski, Dave Weider

It's BIG! That simple little word sums up Tennessee's now well known Rumbling Falls Cave, though it is an understatement in the extreme.

It took a couple years of dreaming for Rickey and a couple months of planning, including a postponement of over a month when a Memorial Day Weekend trip fell through. But a group formed and converged on the Cumberland Plateau for a fabulous weekend of vertical caving. The little expedition was made up of members of four grottoes from two states, including New River Valley, Blue Ridge, Tri-State and the Athens Speleological Society (or ASS for short) grottoes. Our plans included Rumbling Falls and Keystone River Caves on the first two days while the third day was tentatively reserved for an easy day of visiting waterfalls. This is a story about Day 1.

Rickey was traveling with Aaron, Carl, and Dave Socky and arrived at the parking area for Rumbling Falls around 8 a.m., hoping to get in the cave before any other groups. We managed to locate the entrance a few minutes before the rest of the party arrived. After they did, we greeted each other then started getting ready for the days adventure. This was when Dave W. realized he had somehow arrived without his helmet and had to make a hurried drive back to his campsite to retrieve it. Meanwhile, the rest of us headed into the cave as soon as we kitted up, knowing Dave would be able to catch us before we got too far.

The entrance, while not exactly small, gives no hint of what lies hidden farther in. Nor does the 70 foot pit just inside, though it is a very nice drop into a beautiful canyon. Aaron

and Carl had already rigged this drop when Rickey got there and they headed for the next one to rig it and avoid bottlenecks on what promised to be a long, hard trip by all reports.

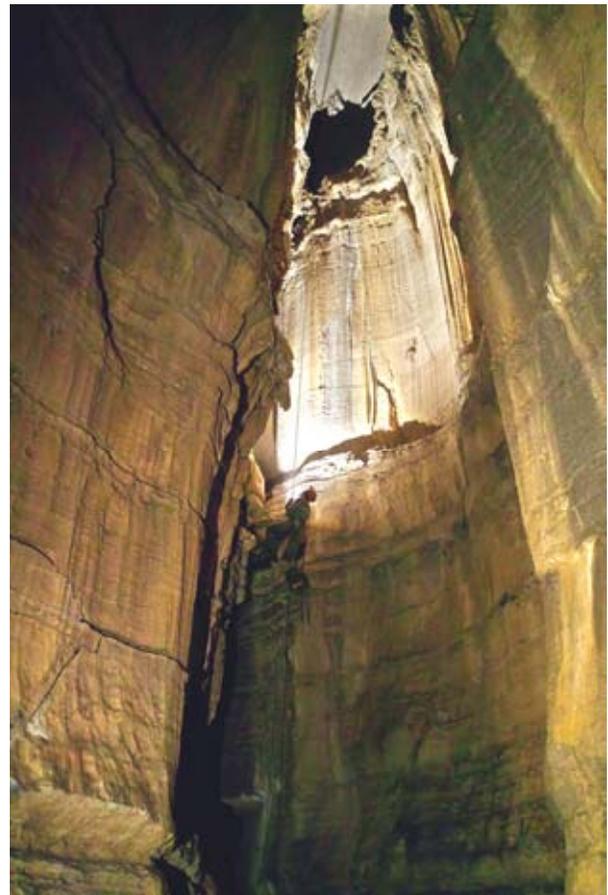


Photo by Aaron Moses

We had heard stories of peoples' ropes being pulled up while they were in the cave so we decided to tie the bottom off to prevent this. At least we wouldn't lose a rope and people at home knew where we were if we didn't call out later that night. Then Rickey came up with the bright idea to make it difficult for anyone to untie the top by hanging on it with full body weight while tying off the bottom. Right after this bit of cleverness was completed Nikki realized that Dave would not be able to put his rack on the taut rope and rappel down. So we had to put slack back in the rope though we still tied it off.

After the first drop, the way on is through a small canyon with jagged walls for a few

minutes, mostly walking and stooping. Then there are two 14-foot waterfalls within a few yards of each other that have to be climbed. The first one looks quite easy, the second one harder, but there were fixed ropes already rigged at both, which was a pleasant surprise since we had been told that they had been removed recently. This helped to speed things up and we headed into a long section of crawling in the stream passage. But it was nearly all hands and knees and there was only a trickle of water, much easier than we had expected.

The next section, that supposedly involves a lot of cursing, is a long, narrow canyon that requires some climbing up and down in to find the easiest going. But, once again, this proved to be, while not exactly easy, somewhat less difficult than we had anticipated.

Then the passage opened up somewhat for a few feet and then abruptly ended . . . at a huge black void. We had arrived at the lip of the famous Stupendous Pit. In front of us was the Rumble Room, which depending on what source you believe, is either the second or third largest known cave chamber in the United States. This chamber covers an area of some 4–5 acres and looks just like the immense circular, domed rooms in nearby Camps Gulf Cave. If you haven't been to either cave, perhaps it is easier to imagine being inside of the Superdome. The only way down is a 201 foot rappel from near the center of the room and after the first 30 feet or so you are hanging in space nowhere near a wall. It is a spectacular descent! It was equally exciting to lie on the floor below and watch the others come down the rope from the small perch near the ceiling, nearly lost in the vast space of this room and land on the mountain of breakdown that forms the floor.

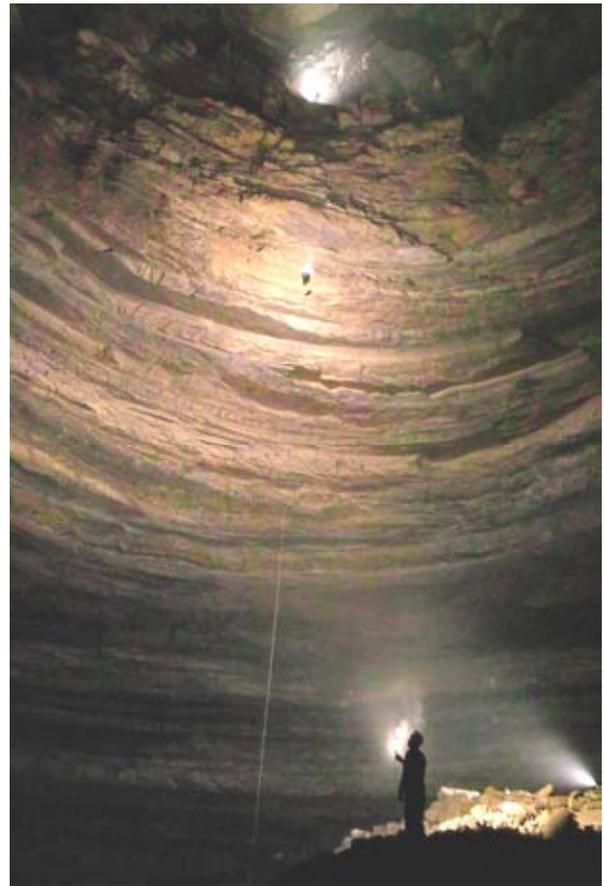


Photo by Aaron Moses

By now Dave Weider had caught up to us with the help of Nikki placing cairns along the route at intersections. We all headed down the maze of breakdown to the stream below. It was along this 200 more feet of climbing down the south side of the room to the very bottom that Nikki slid on a teetering piece of breakdown and fell on her shin. The skin was broken, the blood trickling and a the beginning of a bruised ego, but no stopping the group.

At the stream there are some 16 miles of passage and nearly all of it is huge borehole with a stream. The water seemed to be down and navigating the stream passage was easy, with occasional exceptions of deep water bounded by steep or breakdown covered banks. The was passage up to 50-foot high and wide, maybe more in places. The water was shallow and ran over smooth gravel bars and we could have ran through the cave. The waters were populated with cave crawfish of all sizes.

There was one horrible section, however, where deep water coerced us to hug the left muddy wall and the ceiling level actually lowered to a stoop-walk for about 50 feet! It was at this point where Carl, Nikki and Chris decided to head back to the Rumble Room and get an early start descending out of Stupendous Pit. The rest marched onward and eventually stopped in another huge room with 120 foot ceilings called Gary's Chamber which we estimated was about two miles on the stream passage and quite possibly the farthest Rickey have ever been from an entrance. It was a grand feeling of isolation for them.

We made it out of the cave without incident and had a well deserved dinner after a round trip time of about 10 hours.



Rumbling Falls



Jewel Cave



Rumbling Falls



Fulford Cave Ice Formations

# LITTLE TIP REPORTS

Aug. 23rd

Terry, Todd, Brian Masney, John Harmon  
Crookshank entrance to Friars Hole  
Brian wanted to photograph the Monster Cavern, so I offered guide service. I had a bad case of CRS and managed to convince myself that the passage leading to the first connection (to the Rubber Chicken Hempel Highway) was not the right passage. Trip became a "flail-a-thon". We exited after 7 hours. I later saw that the "wrong passage", was actually the correct route after all. Trip is rescheduled for last weekend in Sept, hopefully with better results.

Aug. 24th

Terry, Todd, Brian, John  
Carpenter-Swago  
I pre-rigged the Carpenter side. We started our pull-down from the Swago side. Between the 2nd and 3rd drops we went over into the Dry Gallery. I had never been in the extension. John offered to re-bolt the 124' dome at the far end sometime in the near future, so we wanted to have a look see. The Dry Gallery is close to a mile in length with a major blockage of flowstone and breakdown at the mid-way point. We had a few moments of doubt at the blockage (I got stuck at one point and Brian had to pull me out), but eventually found a route through that wasn't too tight. John made some mental notes on how best to begin the dome-climb. We then returned to our pull-down and exited from the Carpenter entrance. Total time was about 7 hours.

Aug. 30th

Terry, Marion O. Smith, Sharon Jones  
One Scary Day (Cave) in Fentress Co, Tenn  
Dug open by John Swartz just this past winter, the cave contained a hundred-footer I had not been to. Marion took Sharon and I there. We were the 4th and 5th cavers to ever visit One Scary Day. The cave is aptly named. You have to rappel down through a jumble of very threatening death boulders for almost ninety vertical feet to the lip of a 126' pit. The pit was great (totally free and well decorated), but you

couldn't get the thought of what was over top of it off your mind. I doubt that it will be seen by very many cavers. Two hours

Aug. 30th

Terry, Marion, Sharon  
Noventa (pit) in Fentress Co. Tenn  
Marion took us across a field to the foot of the mountain. Looked like a good approach. Unfortunately, the "field" had not been worked all summer (maybe several summers) and was overgrown in an "elephant grass" height mixture of ragweed, golden rod, and sawbriars, with knee-high poison ivy. Most of the time we couldn't even see the tops of each others heads. Can you say sneeze, ouch, and itch. We also got chiggers.  
The pit turned out to be a pretty nice 88 footer. Marion consulted the topo map and found a longer but much friendlier route back to his truck.

Aug. 31st

Terry, Marion, Sharon, Andy Zellner  
Ostara Cave, Jackson Co., Ala.  
Having spent Sat. in north central Tenn. just below the Kentucky border, Sunday found us clear across the state in northern Ala. Ostara is a restricted access cave which happens to contain another hundred footer I had never been to. The cave was new to Marion, Sharon, and me. Andy apparently had an "in" with the discoverers, and we had special permission for him to show us the cave. The cave has been known for several years, but has only ever seen one sport trip.  
Started out with a very tight vertical entrance, below which was a 66 freefall into a spacious and very pretty gallery. The 131 foot pit was soon to follow. This was also a free drop down a nicely fluted dome with cascading flowstones for much of its depth. Quite impressive. About 500 feet of meandering canyon passage with one low air space ear-dip lead to the last pit, an 85' deep flowstone drop. The depth of the cave was about 350'. Trip time was 6 hours

Terry McClanathan



# CAVIN CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 7TH - OCTOBER 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sep 7</b> GRAND PARENT'S DAY	Sep 8	Sep 9	<b>Sep 10</b>  Grotto Meeting 7pm	<b>Sep 11</b> PATRIOT'S DAY (9/11)	Sep 12	Sep 13
Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	<b>Sep 18</b>  Fall VAR Covington, VA Gate Trout Cave	<b>Sep 19</b>  Fall VAR Covington, VA Gate Trout Cave	<b>Sep 20</b>  Fall VAR Covington, VA Gate Trout Cave
<b>Sep 21</b>  Fall VAR Gate Trout	<b>Sep 22</b>  EQUINOX	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27
Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4
Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	<b>Oct 8</b>  Grotto meeting 7pm Auction	Oct 9	Oct 10	<b>Oct 11</b>  VETERAN'S DAY Fall Bash @ Fisher's Landing
Oct 12	<b>Oct 13</b> COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



WINDY RUN GROUP

- 1- RUMBLING FALLS
- 2- BLACK HILLS CAVING
- 3- COLORADO CAVING

## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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