

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE FRONTIER



BOB IN CRAWLWAY IN FLOWER POT

VOL. #24

ISS. #10

OCT

2009

#119



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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.

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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Nikki Fox
 in the crawlway after the 40' entrance drop in
 Flower Pot.

**** 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
CONSERVATION CHAIR
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



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CAVING EVENTS

2009

OCT 12 ----- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 14 ----- GROTTO MEETING – 7PM – Annual Auction
OCT 17 ----- BRIDGE DAY
OCT 17 ----- Crystal Grottoes Dig – 10AM
OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOWS EVE
NOV 1 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 3 ----- ELECTION DAY
NOV 11 ----- Grotto meeting – 7pm – Nominations & Elections
NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 14 ----- Annual WVCC Banquet – 7:30 PM – Brier Inn, Lewisburg, WV
NOV 15 ----- SADIE HAWKINS DAY
NOV 26 ----- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 27 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 7 ----- PEARL HARBOR DAY
DEC 9 ----- Wrap presents for Red Cross
DEC 12 ----- ANNUAL CHRISTMAS Celebration at Bob & Paulette Bennett's home – 6pm-until?
DEC 13 ----- ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAVE TRIP
DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE (Shortest day of the year!)
DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2010

MAY 21-23 ---- Spring VAR sponsored by Bubble Cave LLC
JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jnctn, 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 September----- \$16.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ---- \$4588.00

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2010 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Andy Celmer ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
Ehren Gieske ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>
Vitas Eidukevicius ---- www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/
David Hackley's Web Site ----- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
Todd Roberts ----- http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/
Bob Gulden ----- www.caverbob.com/home.htm/
Nikki Fox ----- <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/
WNS ----- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>
Containment Procedures ----- <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF OCTOBER

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Tina Blaik, Jeff Brandenburg, Ken Carter,
Bob Denton, Debbie Floyd, Margaret
Hanson, Wendy Reeves

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAVING NEWS

WNS!!!

WNS!!!

Of course, again a repeat, everything is still
WNS related right now. There are many links
and articles on the web right now stating facts
and what to do.

Here are a few links the read up on WNS and
keep up on the developing news:

NSS Page

<http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm>

WNS Donation Page

http://www.caves.org/WNS/Rapid_Response.shtml

US Forest Caves Closure

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/docs/apr_2009_caves_closure/closure_order.pdf

US Fish & Wildlife Advisory

http://www.caves.org/WNS/USFWS-WNS_cave_advisory_news_rls_2009-03-26_final-1.pdf

WNS Research

<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS2009research.pdf>

D-Con Procedures

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>

The testimony on WNS before the joint sub-
committee video

http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=27&extmode=view&extid=259

Subcommittee on WNS hearing NSS web page
<http://caves.org/WNS/Hearing%20on%20WNS.htm>

Tri-State Grotto

Meeting

Sept 9, 2009

Bernie Wootten opened the meeting at 7 pm. 17
members were present.

Chuck gave the treasurer's report, it was moved,
second and passed.

We talked about the new and old Grotto web
sites. Check it out at:

www.tristategrotto.net

This Sunday is the field trip for WVDEP. Meet
at up at 1 pm on Sunday, and 1 pm on Monday.

We talked about the Adam Stephen Dig. (See
report)

We talked about The Crystal Grottoes Caverns
Dig. (See report)

Cory Hackley talked about his trip out west.

Cory also talked about a cave 2 people were
digging on today.

Ted showed some large pictures of a hole near
his driveway.

Bob talked about OTR. About 1,550 people
were there.

For the Doo Da Parade, Tri-State had people
sitting in a pickup with a sign that said, "We are
sitting this one out".

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Cave Bucks. We collected \$16 to go to WVCC.

Bob went to the WVASS meeting and said WV and VA are neck and neck in number of caves. Bill Balfor has the WV database.

We talked about several caves and where they are.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

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



Tri-State Grotto
Tunnels Through
Crystal Grottoes Caverns

By John P. Di Carlo, Jr. N.S.S. # 25744

Boonsboro, MD – On Saturday August 29, 2009, Tri-State Grotto again made a connection digging in Crystal Grottoes Caverns. Tri-State Grotto's goal was to join different passages in an attempt to make the commercial tour more circular.



Salamander in a tight passage

The day started with a wildlife trip. We went looking for bats. We didn't find any. Sonny Floyd, who is also a guide at Crystal Grottoes,

said a few weeks ago he had seen a bat in the cave. He did point out a salamander in the back door passage. It is the Long Tail Salamander (*Eurycea longicauda longicauda*), which is the only salamander that is yellowish with black vertical marks on its tail. Breeding underwater in the winter, the Long Tail Salamander produces a clutch of 90 eggs. It eats insects, worms, arthropods and other terrestrial invertebrates.



The Wagon



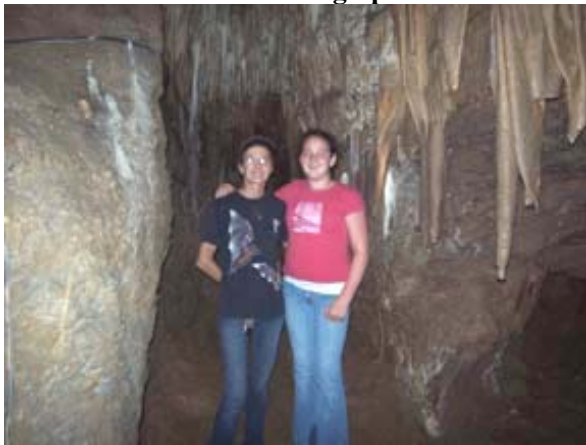
Sonny Floyd waiting for a bucket

We used the wagon for most of the trips out. Four buckets were too much for it. The brace for the front truck bent under the weight. Three buckets worked best with most of the weight to the rear. We had a back-up of filled buckets most of the day. We could see where a second wagon would be a big help.

We also carried out buckets. There wasn't a line of people. You had to take it all the way out, no passing it off.



Sean Wootten filling up a bucket



Debbie Floyd and Cassie Downs

The clay was real tacky. It stuck to the shovels so badly, it was easier to use your hands to fill up the buckets. Ideas were floating around about spraying something on the shovels so the clay wouldn't stick.



**Looking at Bob Bennett through the
Never before seen formations**



connection hole

Late in the afternoon we broke through. It was a small hole at the top. We yelled in different places and shined our lights through with no success. While the hole was being enlarged, we could hear a tour going through and see the lights going on and off. Going around we found we were right where the owner hoped we would come out. The picture of Debbie Floyd and Cassie Downs is at the other end of where we connected.



To the left is last month's new passage.



To the right is today's new passage.

Cory Hackley won our groundhog award. He was the lead digger all day. Russell Linton worked us all into the ground. He pulled the wagon out by himself most of the day. 252 buckets of clay were removed.



Cory Hackley digging into the new passage.



Russell Litton dumping a bucket.

We had 14 people show up to help: Sean Wootten, Abigail Wootten, Chris Wootten, Jonathan Wootten, Tyler Wootten, Russell Linton, Dave Cunningham, Bob Bennett, John Di Carlo, Cory Hackley, Debbie Floyd, Sonny Floyd, Robert Kidwell III and Andrew White.



Rimstone pools filled with pearls on tourist trail.



Joe Cool, aka Bob Bennett

Fall VAR 2009

**By John P. Di Carlo, Jr.
Cedar Creek, VA**

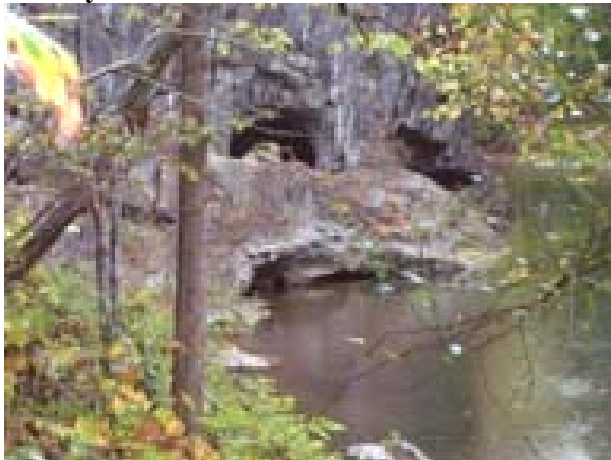
I arrived at VAR on Friday September 25, 2009. Jerry Bowen was already there, and Ben Doan arrived shortly after me. We got camp set up and headed for the VAR canopy.

There was a wine tasting at 8 pm. I kicked in a bottle of red raspberry. There was a large circle of people participating. One bottle would just make it around the circle. I was impressed with the activity.

Afterwards, I pulled out three Fire Lanterns. A group formed, and we sent them off one at a time. They were about three feet long, and it took four people to send one up.



Mary Bowen and James at Panther Cove



See the Face of Panther Cove



Jerry teaching class

On Saturday, Jerry taught a geo caching class at 9:00 am. He had placed a few caches around the campground. After they were all found, they left the VAR site to look for local geo caches.

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Jerry's wife, Mary, daughter Melissa and grandson James arrived in time to make the 1:00 geology trip. Jerry had room in his car, so I rode with him and family. We rode to the gate and our guide couldn't open the lock. Jerry got out and gave it a try. The park was called and they said it was the right combination. They sent over a park person. He couldn't get it off either. So, we walked in. Following the trail, we came to a large sinkhole on the left of the trail. The guide showed us a going hole and said that it was a future dig.



Part of our group milling about at Panther Cove

Continuing back down the trail, we came to the turnoff. Now we were going cross-country through the woods. We climbed and slid down a trail to the edge of Cedar Creek. Turning left, we followed the creek to Panther Cove.



Looking out of Panther Cave

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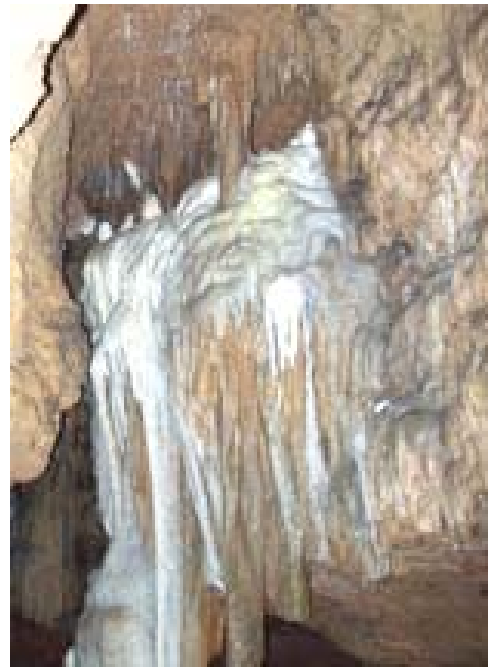
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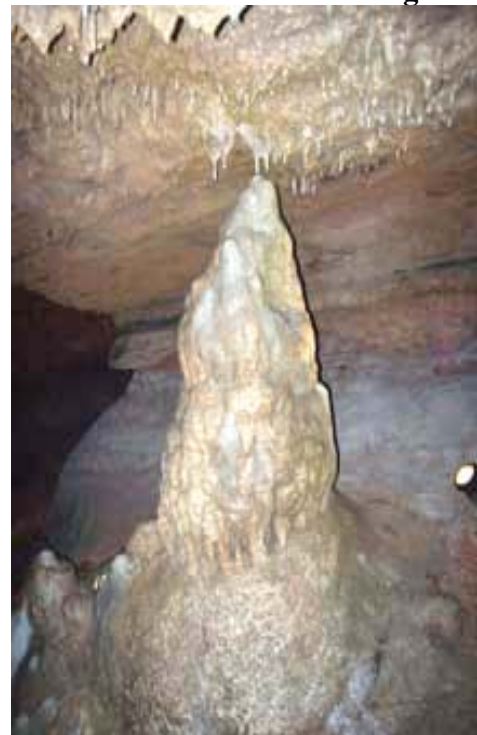
Jerry Bowen, Allison Hazen and Melissa

Our guide talked about the geology and history of the cove. There is a Masonic symbol carved into the rock at the cave. After looking around, we headed back. It had started drizzling on the way to the cove, and continued as we hiked back.

We returned to the campground to change into dry shirts. Now we headed to Crystal Cave. We looked around the museum waiting for our tour. Mary and James went horseback riding.



White Flowstone Flowing



Almost a column



Lots of white flowstone

When it was time for our tour, we followed the guide and headed down into the cave. It was a nice tour. The cave is bigger than I thought it would be. I was impressed by all the pure white calcite. We made it out by the alligator and back to the campground for dinner.



The Alligator



Mary and James on horseback

The food was good with some of the best tasting vegetable lasagna we have ever had. There was also pulled chicken sandwiches, au gratin potatoes, bread, salad and drinks. Dinner was filling with all you could eat.

After dinner, the tables were moved away, and the chairs were set up for the programs. Jerry and I both won door prizes. The talks and movies were interesting. After the programs, John Fox started the music and dancing began.

Sunday morning Front Royal Grotto served breakfast from 8 till 9. Afterwards was the VAR meeting. There was a committee formed to look at money losing VARs



The students in the geo caching class

The following Are photos taken from the last Crustal Grottoes dig:





(By Bob B.)



(by Bob B.)



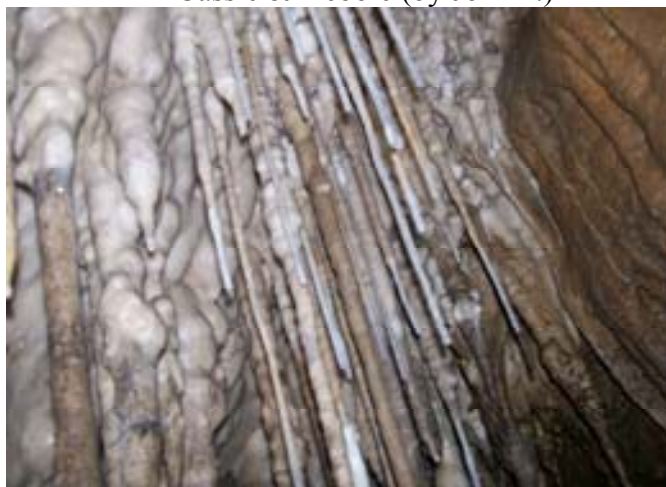
Bob (by John D.)



Cassie & Debbie (by JohnD.)



Corey & Sean (by John D.)



(by Bob B.)



(by John D.)



GAVIN CALENDAR

OCTOBER 11TH - NOVEMBER 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Oct 11</i>	<i>Oct 12</i> COLUMBUS DAY	<i>Oct 13</i>	<i>Oct 14</i> Grotto meeting 7pm Annual Auction	<i>Oct 15</i>	<i>Oct 16</i>	<i>Oct 17</i> Crystal Grottoes Dig 10am Bridge Day
<i>Oct 18</i>	<i>Oct 19</i>	<i>Oct 20</i>	<i>Oct 21</i>	<i>Oct 22</i>	<i>Oct 23</i>	<i>Oct 24</i>
<i>Oct 25</i>	<i>Oct 26</i>	<i>Oct 27</i>	<i>Oct 28</i>	<i>Oct 29</i>	<i>Oct 30</i>	<i>Oct 31</i>  ALL HALLOWS EVE
<i>Nov 1</i> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	<i>Nov 2</i>	<i>Nov 3</i> ELECTION DAY	<i>Nov 4</i>	<i>Nov 5</i>	<i>Nov 6</i>	<i>Nov 7</i>
<i>Nov 8</i>	<i>Nov 9</i>	<i>Nov 10</i>	<i>Nov 11</i> Grotto meeting 7pm Elections VETERAN'S DAY	<i>Nov 12</i>	<i>Nov 13</i>	<i>Nov 14</i> Annual WVCC Banquet 7:30 pm Brier Inn
<i>Nov 15</i> SADIE HAWKINS DAY	<i>Nov 16</i>	<i>Nov 17</i>	<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>Nov 19</i>	<i>Nov 20</i>	<i>Nov 21</i>

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Karst Conference

1- WNS!!!!!!!!!!!!

2- VAR

3- CRYSTAL GROTTOS DIG



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TO:

