

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE FRONTIER

FORMATIONS IN FLOWER POT

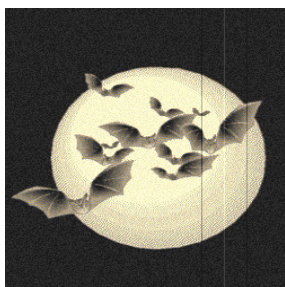
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2009

#133



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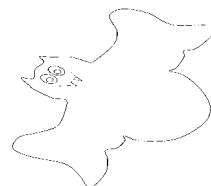
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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Nikki Fox
 in the main passage in Flower Pot Cave, Randolph
 Co, WV.

**** 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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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with **FULL** and
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE**
GROTTTO.

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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TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS
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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
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CAVE EVENTS

2009

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

JAN 1 ----- NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 13 ----- TSG grotto Meeting 7pm
JAN 18 ----- KING DAY
FEB 2 ----- GROUND HOG DAY
FEB 7 ----- SUPER BOWL
FEB 10 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
FEB 14 ----- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 16 ----- FAT TUESDAY (MARDI GRAS)
MAR 10 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
MAR 13-14 - Carter Caves Restoration Camp
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 2 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 4 ----- EASTER
APR 14 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
APR 23 ----- ARBOR DAY
MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 6 ----- NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER
MAY 9 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 12 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
MAY 21-23 - Spring VAR sponsored by Bubble Cave LLC
MAY 22 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 31 ---- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 4-6 ---- BUBBLE CAVE WEEKEND
JUN 9 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
JUN 20 ----- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 12-17 - NSS Convention, Essex Jcnctn, VT
JUL 14 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
JUL 25 ----- PARENT'S DAY
AUG 11 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm

SEP 2-6 ---- **QTR**

SEP 8 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY
SEP 23 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 11 ---- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 13 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
OCT 16 ---- Bridge day
OCT 31 ---- ALL HALLOWS EVE
NOV 2 ----- ELECTION DAY
NOV 10 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm
NOV 11 ---- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 13 ---- SADIE HAWKIN'S DAY
NOV 25 ---- THANKSGIVING
NOV 26 ---- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 8 ----- Wrap Presents for Red Cross 6pm
DEC 11 ---- ALLUAL TSG CELEBRATION at Bob & Paulette's home 6pm
DEC 12 ---- Christmas caving
DEC 21 ---- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ---- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ---- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ---- NEW YEAR'S EVE

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----- \$11.00

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TOTAL TO DATE: --- **\$4599.00**

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & GIVING 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 NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Brooks Brogan, Nikki Fox,
John Hackley, Laurel Hackley, Austin
Jefferson, Chase Jefferson, Terry

McClanathan, Johnny Robinson, Jr,
Abigail Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAVING NEWS

WNS!!!

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

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Meeting 10-14-2009

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7 pm.

We had three new people who introduced themselves: Phil, Ryan, and Alexandra.

The new website works except for Jerry Bowen's site. Bob Bennett will contact whoever does the NSS site and VAR site to update our links.

Bob talked about WVDEP sponsoring a Karst conference. The grotto helped open up the trail, and led the conference attendees. Several articles were in the paper before and after the conference.

Jerry Bowen spoke about the Fall VAR. There was a wine tasting, a trip to Panther Cove, a trip to Crystal Cave, the dinner, dancing, and the business meeting on Sunday. There were 105 people in attendance.

The Spring VAR will be in Lewisburg, May 21-23. Bubble is the sponsor.

Cory Hackley talked about an adventure.

Benders Cave is for sale. It was once known as the most decorated cave in Berkeley County, WV.

Bernie and Sean Wootten went to Vermont and Massachusetts and looked for marble caves.

Terry McClanathan talked about a trip to TAG. He did not take his Germany Valley Gear. He did drops of 129 ft. and 147 ft. into a quarry.

Jerry talked about a trip to Cumberland Gap. He was looking for Cumberland Cave.

John Di Carlo talked about the dig on Saturday at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

\$11 was collected for Cave Bucks. It will be sent to WVCC.

The meeting was adjourned. 8:10 pm.

The annual grotto auction followed the meeting.

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

**WOW EVERYONE! LETS ALL
CONGRATULATE JUDY FISHER ON
BECOMING A FELLOW OF THE
SOCIETY!**

I was trying to wait until I found a picture of her receiving the award but to no avail. I believe that this is now 5 Tri-State members who have received the honor! That's saying something for Tri-State!

I can't think of a nicer or more deserving person to receive the honor. Congrats on a job well done!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!!

Tri-State Grotto Digs at Crystal Grottoes Caverns

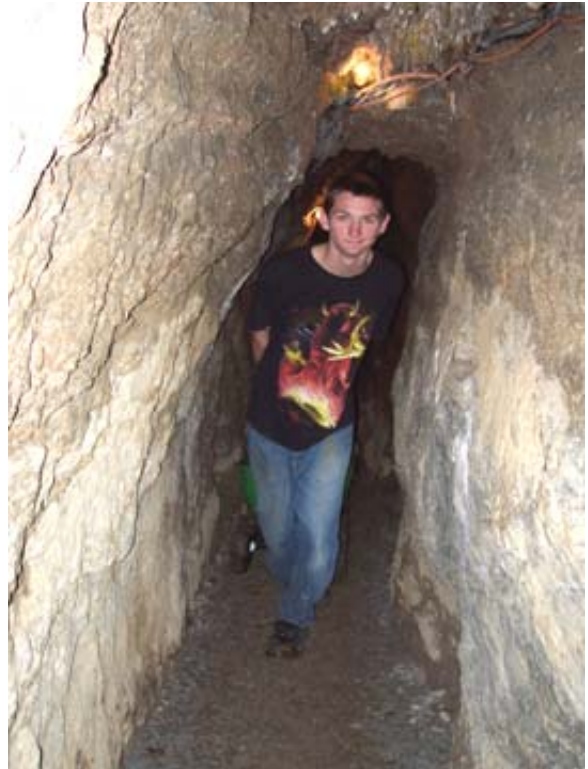
By John Di Carlo NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD – On October 17, 2009 Tri-State Grotto returned to Crystal Grottoes Caverns to continue their dig.



Bernie Wootten hauls Out A Wagon Load

Thirteen people signed in. They were: John Di Carlo, Clyde Floyd, Cory Hackley, Russell Linton, Bob Bennett, Zackary Floyd, Todd Roberts, Bernie Wootten, Sean Wootten, Chris Wootten, Tyler Wootten, Abby Wootten and Johnny Wootten.



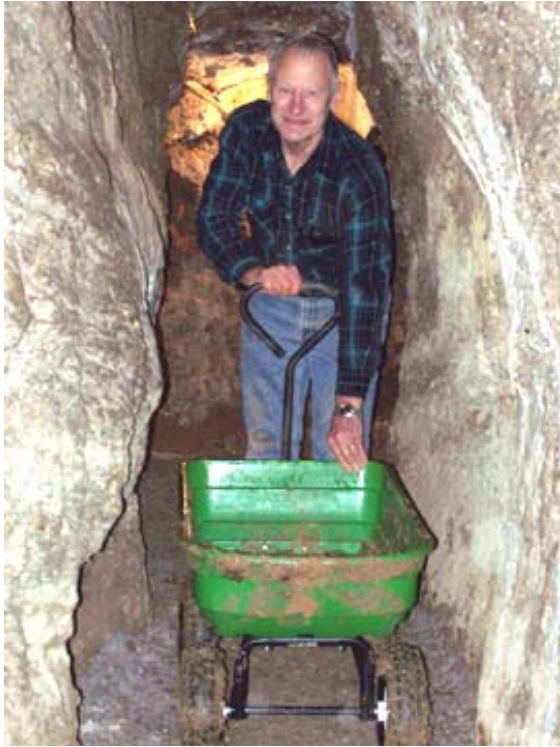
Wagoneer Zackary Floyd pulls out a wagonload of clay

As we started one of the Caverns workers and Zack were putting together two new wagons. This would give us three to use. As soon as they sent the first one to us we put it to good use. We have found that three buckets were the right amount for the wagons. Through most of the day we were running two wagons. In the afternoon, we ran all three wagons.



Clyde Floyd loading the wagon

The buckets filled quickly, and were dumped into the wagons that were sitting on the gravel pathway. The wagons headed out and we kept a pusher at the bottom of the backdoor passage to help get the wagons up the steep slope.



Russell Linton backs an empty wagon down the passage

Crystal Grottoes Caverns supplied lunch. We had ham and cheese sandwiches, baked beans, bags of different kinds of chips and sodas. Jerry Downs told me that next time he would have pizza for us.



Sean Wootten, left, and Cory Hackley

The final tally was 409 buckets. We did not bust through to anything new. Where we were digging, we had hoped to find a new passage off of it, but we only found bedrock. We opened up the passage we were digging in, and turned it into a room. We now know the direction of the next dig. We will tie into the passage coming from the turtle room.



The Passage Before



The Passage After

Crystal Grottoes Bat Count



A bat tries to blend in with the Stalactites

Every time we visit Crystal Grottoes Caverns, we look for bats in the commercial section of the caverns. Clyde (Sonny) Floyd reported that he saw five Little Brown Bats in the cave on Friday. On Saturday we found one bat. It was a lot smaller than the pips I usually see. I could not get any closer because it was on a ceiling, so I took a photo and examined it close up. I could not see any sign of WNS. Sonny said he did not notice any WNS on the bats he saw on Friday.

Looking Around



The Blankets



Ceiling above the rear sump pump



Candlesticks in the new area uncovered on our last dig



Pile of full buckets waiting for a wagon

LIVING ON KARST

Back several months ago I was asked by Twila Carr of the WVDEP if I could come up with a cave that would be fairly easy access to allow the attendees of the 2009 Living on Karst Conference to see what it would be like caving. I picked out several caves but one-by-one they fell by the wayside. Between WNS & owners wishes it boiled down to one, Whittings Neck Cave.

The karst conference was to be held on September 14th & 15th at the US Fish & Wildlife Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown, WV. Whittings Neck would be a good choice for several reasons. First & foremost it was close and easy to get to. Also there were several other reasons. Tri-State Grotto's formal stand on WNS is not to cave until the moratorium for WNS is lifted. We chose Whittings Neck because it is not a known bat hibernaculum. Counting bats on trips into the cave never accumulated more than 5-10 bats at most (sometimes none). We were also going to have a decon station set up for decontamination after the 'trip'. The buses were also to be decontaminated after the trip also. Other factors were involved in choosing Whittings Neck. Most of the people who were along on the trip were novices & non-cavers. In other words they would

probably never go into another cave again (except for maybe commercial caves). Their wardrobes were non-caving. They had on sneakers, dress shoes, hikers, jeans, dress slacks, polo shirts, etc etc. Their 'gear' would also never see another cave. We supplied most of the helmets and they were also deconned. Also the owner's son was alright allowing us access for the sake of allowing people to go into the cave for a short distance to see what caving was like. We did a lot of thinking and planning before we finally said, OK, Whittings Neck it is.

Prior planning and work was done by Jeff Marcum, Corey and I to clear briars and downed trees from the trail on Sunday.

On Monday, September 14th, Paulette & I arrived at the karst conference about 7:15 am to set up a display about caving. Jerry Bowen showed up shortly after. Once we had everything set up it was time for Jerry & I to attend the sessions while Paulette manned the display. The sessions were for the most part very interesting & riveting. The speakers included geologists, biologists, scientists, and persons for companies who were the leaders in remedies for karst & sinkhole problems. The 'cave' trip was set to leave the conference about 1pm. Jerry and I headed to Whittings Neck Cave while the buses stopped by 2 other karst areas before arriving at the Whittings Neck property about 2 pm.



Scotts Rock Drop

We set the trips up into 2 sessions. Each session would stop by a small pit called Scotts Rock Drop. From there they would be led to the main entrance to Whittings Neck. Each trip into the cave would be limited to 10. While those 10 were in the cave, the rest would head on to the Sinkhole Entrance (2nd Entrance). We had a hand line set up to allow each attendee to go down into the sinkhole entrance. Since the sinkhole entrance is a collapsed room it would give everyone a sense of being in a cave.

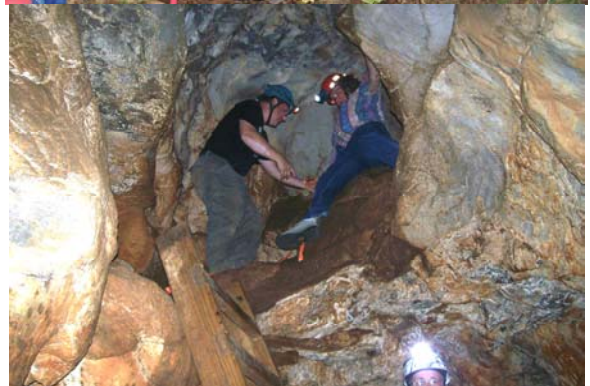


The 1st bus arrivals were met by John DiCarlo & John Pearson and lead to the main entrance of Whittings Neck cave by John DiCarlo. Of the 28 or so attendees, only about 22 or so wanted to go into the cave. We had people ages early 20's to their 80's. Some even had canes. Even they traversed down into the sinkhole where Bernie Wootten and sometimes Sean Wootten were helping where they were needed and answering questions. Mary Lynn Collis was also helping where she was needed. She helped bring people from the buses to the sinkhole entrance and the

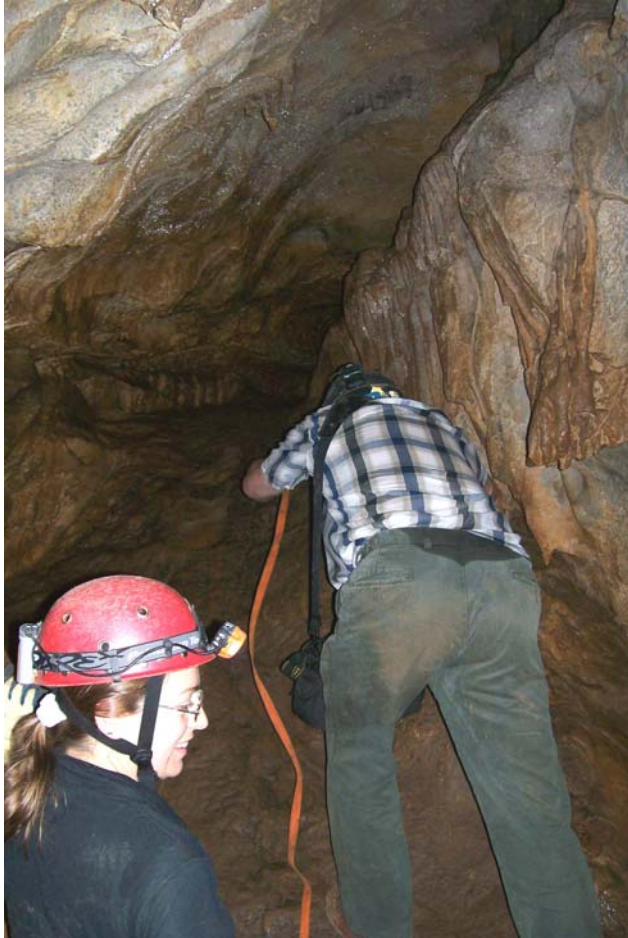
main entrance area. She also helped in the passages of the cave.



The attendees who went into the cave got to do some 'real' caving. Vitas Eidukevicius and Sean were near the entrance to help when needed. There was a hand line at the climb down to the 1st ladder. Jerry Bowen was here at the bottom & sometimes top of the ladders helping out. Once in the entrance they had to climb down to a 5' ladder. Once down the ladder they had to climb up about 12' on another ladder. From there they had to crawl about 40' to 50' (most with no knee pads nor gloves). Remember some had on dress slacks & dress shoes too!



Once through the crawlway they had to slide/shinny down a flowstone slope to the 1st intersection in the cave. Here Nikki Fox had a hand line to help people get down & back up the slope. Some 'climbed' while others slid down on their butts. To get back up Nikki was instructing and pushing people back up the slope.



Corey Hackley was also at this point to answer questions and lead those brave souls who wanted to go further to see the big drop.

The 2nd session of attendees included about 50 people. Almost all of these wanted to see the cave! By the time we got everyone into the cave and back to the bus it was after 5 pm. Twila and the other karst organizers were hoping to get everyone back to the conference by 4 pm. OOPSS!! That didn't happen.



I guess you are probably wondering what I was doing while all of this was going on. I was moving from site to site taking lots & lots of pictures. I also moved back and forth through the crawlway and entrance area to get action pictures of most of the attendees. The pictures of the karst conference are up on my web site at <http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/>.

Everyone who attended the conference and the cave trip were impressed with Tri-State Grotto! Words such as friendly and helpful were the most often used terms. They were impressed

with our professionalism and our knowledge of caves. GOOD WORK EVERYONE!

Bob Bennett
NSS 21847





GAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 6TH - DECEMBER 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11 Grotto meeting 7pm Elections VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14 Annual WVCC Banquet 7:30 pm Brier Inn
Nov 15 SADIE HAWKINS DAY	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21
Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26 THANKS GIVING	Nov 27 BLACK FRIDAY	Nov 28
Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5
Dec 6	Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 8	Dec 9 Wrap Presents for Red Cross 6PM	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION at Bob & Paulette's Home 6PM
Dec 13 Christmas Caving	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Crystal Grottoes Formations

1- LIVING ON KARST

2- A LITTLE LATE BUT A NEW NSS FELLOW!!!!!!!!!!

3- CRYSTAL GROTTOES DIG



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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TO:

