

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE CROTTA

LAGA TUBE, CALIFORNIA

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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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*** The photo on the cover shows a lava tube in California. It's name, of course, is Lava Tube...
 The photo was taken by Ehren Gieske.

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



CAVE EVENTS

2009

MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 7 ----- Day of Prayer
MAY 9 ----- Martinsburg Heritage Day – Adam Stephen
Day – 10 AM
MAY 10 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 13 ----- Grotto meeting 7pm
MAY 16 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 21-25 -- KY Speleofest – Lone Star Preserve
MAY 25 ----- MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 28-31 -- SERA Cave Carnival, Walker Co, GA
JUN 5-7 ----- Bubble Weekend
JUN 10 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7pm
JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
JUN 20 ----- WV Day
JUN 21 ----- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 21 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 25-28 -- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltpetre Cave
Preserve - KY
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 8 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7pm
JUL 11 ----- Grotto Picnic – Crystal Grottoes – 12pm
JUL 19-26 --- NSS Convention, Kerryville, TX
AUG 12 ----- Grotto Meeting – 7 PM
AUG 14-16-- Indiana Cave Capers – Camp Riverdale,
Mitchell, IN
SEP 3-7 ----- OTR!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
SEP 5 ----- POLYESTER POWER HOUR
SEP 5 ----- DOO DAH PARADE
SEP 7 ----- LABOR DAY
SEP 9 ----- GROTTO MEETING – 7PM
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT DAY
SEP 22 ----- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 12 ----- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 14 ----- GROTTO MEETING – 7PM
OCT 17 ----- BRIDGE DAY
OCT 31 ----- ALL HALLOWS DAY

2010

JUL 12-17 ----- NSS Convention, Essex Jctn, VT

2011

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

2012

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

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the organization of choice. The money SHOULD NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of April----- \$52.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4527.00

Keep It Coming!

GROTTO LINKS

Tri-State Grotto website ----- www.wobey.net/TSG
VAR website ----- www.varegion.org
NSS website ----- www.caves.org
NSS Convention 2009 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>
OTR Website ----- www.otr.org
MAR Website ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net
Andy Celmer's Web Site ---- www.wobey.net/TSG/Andy/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Bob/
Ehren Gieske's Web Site --- www.wobey.net/TSG/Ehren
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Jerry/
Vitas's Web Site ----- www.wobey.net/TSG/Vitas/
Tina Blaik's Web Site ----- www.kayakdream.com/
David Hackley's Web Site -----
---- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
Todd Robert's Web Site -----
-- http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/
Bob Gulden's Web Page - www.caverbob.com/home.htm
Nikki Fox's Web Site -----
----- <http://s231.photobucket.com/albums/ee8/cavefox1/>
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
-- www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman
Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto
Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
NSS Online Cavers ----- www.onlinecavers.com
WNS -- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>
Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MAY

Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson, Eric Berge, John Dale, Angela Durst, James Durst, Mary Eidukevicius, JC Fisher, Matthew Jefferson, Jeff Marcum, Greg McCoy, Lee Moreland, Chelsea Pell, Todd Roberts, Chris Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GIVING NEWS

WNS!!!

WNS!!!

WNS!!!

Of course, everything is 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

Congressman Urge WNS Research Funding
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Salazar%20FINAL%20050209.pdf>

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/2009research.pdf>

D-Con Procedures

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

Tri-State Grotto

Meeting

April 8, 2009

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7 pm.

Keith introduced himself as a new member. His NSS number is 61204.

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

We received a thank you letter from WVCC for Cave Bucks.

Old Business

VAR. We talked about VAR and Fall VAR

We talked about WNS.

Did Joe Harper get a nomination for the Landowner award? Yes he did.

We talked about the Adam Stephen event in May.

We talked about doing a dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

JC talked about a dig on McDonalds Farm in Morgan County. It's full of sinkholes. Maybe he will pick a weekend in May.

May 9, Heritage day at Adam Stephen House. We discussed having information about WNS, and using the sinkhole posters.

We talked about a grotto Web space /getting space.

Bob Bennett talked about the Eastern Panhandle Survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next month's program will be Frozen Waterfalls of Ohio.

Bernie talked about some caving trips in FL.

We collected \$52 in Cave Bucks. They will go to WVCC.

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

Golden Eagle Back on Aviary's Radar

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
By Allison M. Heinrichs
TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Saturday, February 21, 2009

For weeks, Todd Katzner and his colleagues sat in a cold wooden box trying to capture a golden eagle for a project to track migration patterns and find out whether Pennsylvania's growing number of wind farms were putting the birds in danger. On Thanksgiving Day 2006, they caught one -- a male they dubbed golden eagle No. 39 -- and attached a transmitter to its back. "But in June of 2007, the unit went dead," said Katzner, director of conservation and field research at the

National Aviary in the North Side. "It was possible that the bird died, that the tracking unit fell off, that the bird bit off the antenna, that the bird changed its behavior in a way that made the unit unable to collect data -- we just didn't know."

This week, No. 39 was back on the radar, safe and sound because of a West Virginia wildlife biologist with a supply of deer carcasses and a camera.

As part of West Virginia's role in the golden eagle tracking project -- which includes, among others, the Aviary, Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve, Duquesne University and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources -- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Jeff Hajenga set up a camera that would automatically take pictures when an animal moved in front of it.

He baited the camera's field of view with roadkill deer. "I set the camera up on Jan. 23, and by Jan. 24 we had pictures of the bird," Hajenga said. Hajenga reported to Tricia Miller, a mapping specialist at Powdermill in Westmoreland County that he found a golden eagle with a transmitter on its back in Beckley, a town in southern West Virginia.

Miller had a hunch it was No. 39 because it was in the area the winter before its transmitter stopped working, and none of the dozen or so eagles fitted with transmitters were showing up where Hajenga took the photo.

Miller's husband, Powdermill avian biologist Michael Lanzone, on Monday caught the bird with a cannon that uses air to fire a large net. They weighed the eagle and measured it, collected blood and feather samples, fitted it with a working transmitter and released it. "He was in great shape," Miller said. "He was heavier than when we caught him the first time. He's doing great."

No. 39 uses the same migration route as an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 other eastern golden eagles, which takes them from wintering grounds in West Virginia to summer nests in Canada.

Every spring and winter they funnel through a 50-mile swath of the Allegheny Mountains, passing over Bedford and Somerset counties. "When the wind blows and hits these mountain ridges, it creates a lift," Miller said. "This creates an updraft, which the birds seek because they don't have to use as much energy flapping their wings. They can just ride the wind like a glider."

That wind is attracting wind farms to Western Pennsylvania. "A lot of the money for this project is available because people are very interested in the potential impacts of the wind power development on these birds,"

Katzner said. "The goal of our research is to step back and get a big picture to identify ways that wind power can be constructed so that it is more bird-friendly."

Allison M. Heinrichs can be reached at ahenrichs@tribweb.com or 412-380-5607.

Golden eagles are one of North America's largest birds of prey and the national bird of Mexico. They are dark brown with feathers that reflect gold in the sunlight. Scientists are doing genetic tests to find out if the 1,000 to 2,000 birds that migrate through Pennsylvania, called eastern golden eagles, are a unique

Diet: Meat. Golden eagles catch rabbits and squirrels and scavenge carcasses of larger animals, such as deer.

Wingspan: 6 to 7.5 feet

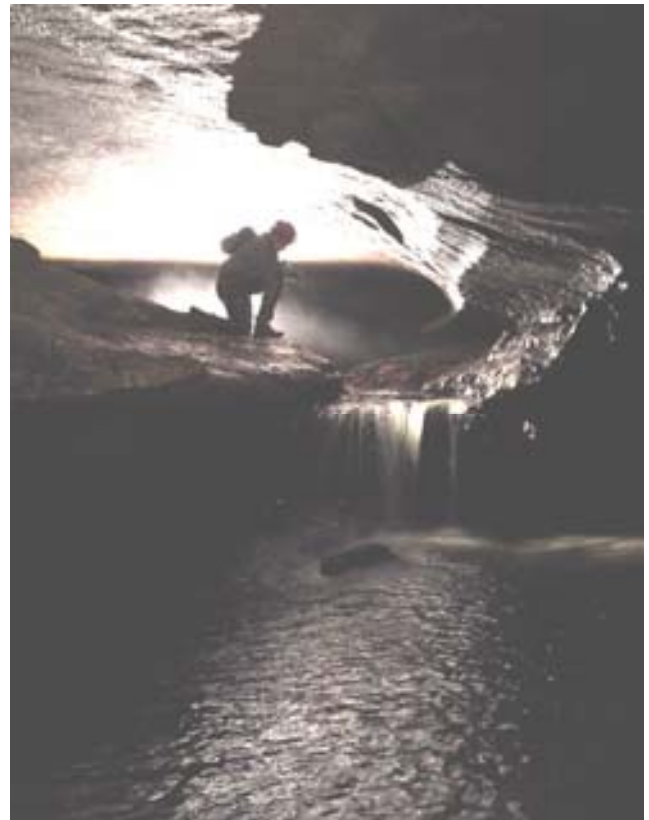
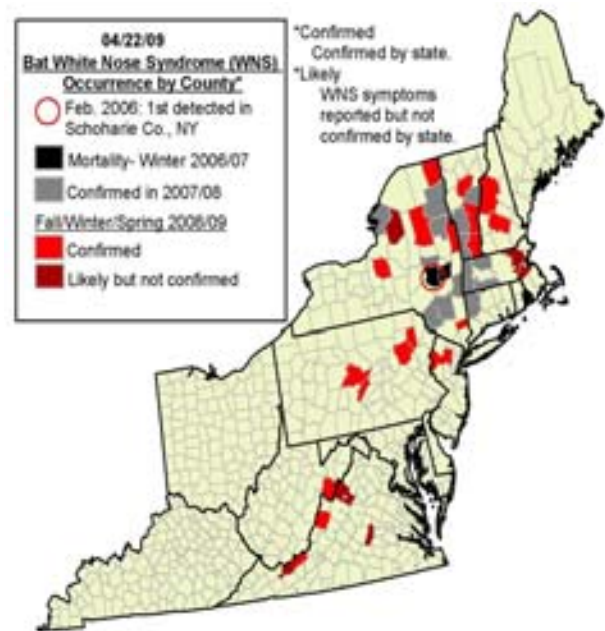
Weight: 6 to 14 pounds

Average lifespan: 20 to 30 years

Range: North America, Europe, Asia and northern Africa

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

www.aviary.org.



Downstream Waterfall in Norman Cave



4/1/08 – GEPKS - Jefferson Co, WV –
Ridgewalk – Found several small & 1 large
sinkhole – Bob

7/12/08 – GEPKS - Mineral Co, WV – Clark Mt
Caves – Found 5 small caves & GPS'd them –
Bob, JC, Judy, Jep, Jerry, Mary, John Dale

8/28–9/1/08 – OTR – Carl & Sandy, Eric &
Priscilla, Bob & Paulette, Gordon, Jerry & Mary,
Ken, Chris & Nikki, Mary Lynn, Anya & Kevin,
Danny C, John Da, John Di, Ben & Jo Beth,
Barry, JC & Judy, Larry F, Bob Gu, Jeff H, Art
Sr, Art Jr, Lucas, Kai, & Christal, Allison, Bill J,
Ed, Karen, & Zoe, Pat M, Twila N, Janey & JJ,
Jep, Todd, Earl & Cheryl, & Bill V

8/30/08 – Bowden Cave, Randolph Co, WV –
Bob, Jerry & Mary, Ken, Chris & Nikki, John
Di, Jeff H, Art Jr, Lucas, Malakai, & Christal,

8/31/08 – Windy Run Cave, Randolph Co, WV –
Bob, Jeff, Chris, Nikki, Jerry, Mary – Long hike
– 106' & 18' drops

9/11/08 – Crystal Grottoes, Washington Co, MD
– Wootten 6, John DiCarlo - Work Day

9/17/08 – Carnegie Cave, Cumberland Co, PA -
Joe Reeves, Skip and Sue Reeder, their 7 kids,
and Sean Wooten and his 4 kids waded through
knee deep mud (except that the littlest ones got
carried a bit).

9/18-19/08 – Trout Cave, Pendleton Co, WV –
Jeff H, Craig S, & others - Gate

9/19-21/08 – Fall VAR – Bob B & Paulette, John
Da, Alan, Wootten 6, JC, Chris, Nikki, Lauren,
Greg, Jep, Ellie, Jerry, Eric B, Gordon, Anya &
Kevin M, Danny C, Lee Durst, Sonny, Bob Gu,
Pat M, Ann, Twila N, Todd, Ken T, Jon P

9/19/08 – Hide-A-Bed, Greenbrier Co, WV –
Bob B, Ellie, Jerry, Jep – 1st official trip into
cave in many years

9/20/08 – Paxtons Cave, Allegheny Co, VA –
Bob B, Jerry, Ann – Played in maze

9/21/08 – Catawba Murder Hole, Botetourt Co,
VA – Bob B, Paulette, Jerry, Nikki, Chris –
Bounced entrance pit

9/24/08 – Jefferson Co, WV – Shepherd Grade
Rd – Investigated sinkhole w/small cave – Filled
in – Bob & Chuck

10/4/08 – Pinesburg Cave, Washington Co, MD
- Joe Reeves and his son Wesy locate and
(briefly) explore Pinesburg Cave. It's not very
big.

10/8/08 - Greenbrier County, WV - General
Davis Cave - Jeff Hajenga, Amy Cimarolli, and
several others. Trip to collect data on
salamander species within cave. ~ 7 hr trip

10/14/08 - Jonathan Peterson, Tina Blaik, Ryan
Keefe, and Frankie Brooks began an evening
caving trip by checking the water in
Cleaversburg Cave, Cumberland Co near
Shippensburg, PA. The dark blue water came up
to about the 7th rung on the ladder so we decided
to head over to Carnegie Cave also in
Cumberland Co.

After traversing through the forest and
navigating electric fence trail we arrived at the
entrance tube and headed in. We explored past
the clay steps to the north western most part of
the cave to see what was labeled on the map as
“rice patties”. As this was the only part of the
cave where white root-like strings appeared we
figured that must be our rice and headed back.
The best part of this cave is without a doubt all
the squeezes and little holes to explore followed
closely by its massively muddy conditions.
A great time was had by all and we look forward
to going back there soon

10/18/08 - I was out with my mom in
Pennsylvania. We stopped in Tytoona Cave,
Blair Co, PA and went in about three hundred
feet. Mom is almost 80 years old, and with all
the knee and hip operations she has had, it was a
real experience for her. We were doing covered

bridges that day too, and found a bridge in the yard at Arch Spring.

11/15/08 – GEPKS - Hampshire Co, WV – Mac's Folley – Bob, JC, Todd, Tim, & Mr Mac

12/18/08 - Flew out to Nebraska to fetch Stephen home. We rode home together in his Jeep Liberty. Stopped in Hannibal, Missouri and saw Mark Twain's Cave, Marion Co (12-18), and later while driving through Indiana, stopped at Marengo Cave, Crawford Co (12-20). That cave was NICE! You can use that for fodder in the trip log if you want

12/20/08
Bo Allen Pit, White Co, TN
Terry and Todd
153' free drop, nicely decorated dome

12/20/08
Death Boulder Pit, White Co, TN
Marion O. Smith, Sharon Jones, Terry, Todd
9 hr. trip, exploration and survey

12/21/08 - Cleversburg Sink, Cumberland Co, PA - Jonathan Peterson and Ken Tayman checked water level at approx 28 feet deep, very high in entrance room, only tops of three large breakdown rocks, passage to top of ladder completely submerged

12/21/08
Brody Cave, Dekalb Co, TN
Marion O. Smith, Terry, Todd, Andy Zellner
5 hr. trip, exploration and survey

12/31/08
Cabble Pit, Greenbrier Co, WV
Terry, Todd
107' open air pit. Very nice for W. Va.: Owner would like pit considered closed. Todd took some nice pictures which I hope to use for some good PR. I can maybe arrange another trip in a year or so. Best to keep visitations to a minimum

12/31/08
Grapevine (Lost World), Greenbrier Co, WV
Bob Jones, Terry, Todd, The Stembel family consisting of John(Rocco), Susan, Natalie, and Starr

All the guys bounced the historic 118' entrance pit, Terry and Todd yo-yoed several times. Everyone toured commercial and pretty parts of wild section. All the Stembels and Bob Jones are TAG friends of Terry's from Atlanta who have cabins in the area. This was a nice Christmas diversion. Starr (8 yrs.) and her younger sister Natalie (6 yrs) especially had a great time. It's really fun for us old timers to relive our early days of caving through the experiences of children. They have such unbridled enthusiasm.

1/3/09 – Porters Cave, Bath Co, VA - Sean & Bernie Wootten, Jerry Bowen, Carl Amundson, Chris and Nikki, Ben Doan, Joe Reeves and two children. Went to the left side of the cave, through Agony Pass and on to the Big Room and return. Then we traveled on the right side of the cave to the climb where the wall starts. 4-4.5 hours.

Mary and I went to VAR, and engaged in non-caving activities. Shopped vendor's row, caught up with friends, published the VAR guidebook, etc.

Ran with McConkey and the Baltimore Grotto, the weekend before VAR to shelter caves east of Baltimore

1/5/09 – GEPKS - Jefferson & Berkeley Co, WV – Duffeys & Chapmans Caves – Bob & Twila C

1/8/09 – GEPKS - Jefferson & Berkeley Co, WV – Duffey's Cavern – Bob & Paulette

1/10/09 - Shoveleater, Germany Valley in Pendleton Co, WV - Four different work teams were in the cave. Terry and Carl on one and Chris and Nikki on another, plus perhaps half a dozen others with varying assignments.

12 hour survey trip. Carl and I taped and surveyed the Skyline Traverse Drop. We got 162' making it the sixth pit in the cave exceeding 100' in depth, and the second deepest found in the cave so far.

1/13/09 – GEPKS - Jefferson & Berkeley Co, WV – Duffeys Cavern – Bob, Paulette & John Di

1/15/09 – GEPKS - Jefferson & Berkeley Co,
WV – Duffeys & Chapmans Caves – Bob, John
Di, & Danny C

1/20/09 – GEPKS - Jefferson & Berkeley Co,
WV – New info – Duffeys, Chapmans. &
Opequon Creek caves – Bob, John Di, & Danny
C

1/21/09 – GEPKS - Berkeley Co, WV – Mouth
of Opequon Pit – Bob & Ted W

1/23/09 – GEPKS – Berkeley Co, WV – Mouth
of Opequon Pit – Bob – GPS & pictures

1/24/09 - Death Boulder, White Co, TN
Marion O. Smith, Terry
This was the follow-up trip to the Dec. 20th
weekend. One of Marion's objectives was to
connect Death Boulder to another nearby cave
called Great Reason. The week before Marion
had already excavated a short crawl near the
entrance which lead to a couple of pits. The first
we taped at 64'. It dropped into the dome where
Todd had previously (Dec 20) pushed a muddy
crawl to another pit. This needed bolting, which I
did, and Marion and I descended. The drop was
46' into a 70' long high canyon that dead-ended.
At the top of the 64' pit we went in another
direction and did back-to-back pits of 15 and 29
feet. These also dead ended. Next we went over
to the pit only I had descended (Dec 20) due to
the heavy rain coming into the cave. As soon as
Marion went down he recognized the passage
and declared that I had unknowingly already
connected the two caves. I had failed to see this,
even though I had been in Great Reason last
June. We taped the drop at 78', making it so far
the longest in the cave. The entire cave system
now boasts a total of 21 pits ranging from 15 to
78 feet deep. The new pits we did on this trip
were all well guarded by death rocks so we spent
a lot of time making things as safe as possible.
The trip lasted 8 hours.

1/25/09 - Four small caves in Warren Co, TN
Marion, Sharon Jones, Terry
The three of us spent Sunday on a ridge walk in
search of an only done once pit called Biner

Eater Pit. Enroute we found three other caves,
one of which was virgin.

Biner Eater turned out to be two pits of 24' and a
pretty nice 80 footer. I pushed a tight stream
passage at the bottom for about 140 feet of hard
earned booty. Marion made it in part way but
couldn't contort his longer legs around some of
the corners. Todd and Cory would have loved it:
I didn't, but it was one of those "I might be able
to fit through that" kind of passage and there was
air. It finally pinched to a jagged five inch fissure
and I gave up.

We also found two small contact caves. One had
been reported as Dyer Cove Hartselle Cave and
had about 160' of passage. The other was a small
virgin cave. Marion and I explored about 130' of
hands/knees and some walking passage to an
awkward tight spot. I managed to pass this and
got about 40' further into a stand-up formation
room which ended the cave. Marion said he
would turn it into the TCS as Marylander Cave.

Our last stop was a known cave located in a
major ravine. We didn't know the nature of the
cave or even the name at the time. Imagine our
delight when after a few hundred feet of nice
spacious canyon we came to a pit. We had to go
back outside for rope and vertical gear. The drop
was only 24 feet but it landed us in a nice stream
passage. After a hundred feet this became a
crawl which only Sharon and I went through. It
soon opened into more canyon passage which we
followed to a room with a nice active rimstone
floor. I traversed across the room into a tight (but
not too tight) passage which continued as a three
level narrow stream canyon. For a couple of
hundred feet I stayed in the roomier high part.
There were a lot of formations. This eventually
became a formation choke and I dropped down
to the middle level. I chimneyed along this for
perhaps another 150'. I could have traversed the
lower stream level even further. It looked a little
bigger but I would have gotten soaked. Thinking
about the 30 degree outside temperature and mile
hike back to Marion's truck soaking wet was a
strong deterrent to that. We spent a little more
than two hours in this fun little nicer than
expected cave. Marion checked the TCS printout

back at his house and identified it as Chestnut Hollow Cave.

1/29/09 - Hoffman School Cave, Pendleton Co, WV - Jeff Hajenga, Craig Stihler, Jack Wallace, Rick Doyle, Kieran O'Malley, and Barb Douglas. In addition to doing the winter bat count we equipped 40 little brown bats with dataloggers to establish baseline data on hibernating bat behavior. ~6hr trip

2/12/09 - Judy, J.C., and Craig Stihler - Dyers Cave, Hardy Co, WV – Bi-Annual Bat Count, Waiting for the official report.

Bob, we brought you along with us in spirit to New Zealand; thank you again for your list of must-see places. We did get to Waitomo cave - the same day we were married, Friday 2/13 - to see the glowworms by boat through the cave. There are thousands of them and they illuminate huge high-ceiling rooms! No pictures, no talking, no touching was allowed.

Outside it's a tropical, humid forest with enormous ferns. That was on the north island. On the south island, caver Kevin Mountford took us to his Nelson Speleo Group meeting on Thursday, 2/19 and on Saturday, February 21 we visited Harwoods Hole with Kevin, Mary from Oklahoma and Jessie from Canada. More on that awesome trip, and photos, later – Lauren & Greg

2/21/09 - Jones Quarry Cave, Berkeley Co, WV – Boy Scouts - Glenn, Nick, Brian, Gustavo, Scott, Austin, Sean, Ben, Jacob, Aaron, Dudley, Tim & Ellie Florance

2/24/09 - Jeff Hajenga, Larry Berry - Made it to Honaker and Caldwell caves in Mercer Co, WV to collect soil samples for analysis at the National Wildlife Health Center in WI. Four hours total time. All bats seen appeared healthy.

2/28/09 - Yer Cave, Giles Co, Va. Rappels: 12', 127' and 52' - Chris and I went alone into this wonderful vertical cave.... trip report & photos to follow... Nikki & Chris

2/28/09 - Scott Hollow Cave, Monroe Co, WV
DEAD DOG DISPATCH **N.#24**

Went with Mike Dore to retrieve and replace dye traps. These particular traps are being checked every 2 weeks. For the past couple of months there has been an extensive dye tracing project through out the cave. This dye tracing is not only beneficial to us Scott hollow cavers but is also the work of Melissa Hayes. Melissa is doing her master thesis on cave hydrology - Billy Gibberson, Nikki Spears, David Waselchalk, Mike Dore & Mike McFalls

2/28/09 - Shoveleater in Germany Valley, Pendleton Co, WV – Survey - Terry, Todd, Carl Did some mop-up survey at the bottom of 217 foot Germany Well (Todd's first 200 footer), Taped the newest W. Va. hundred footer called Chumazik Pit at a total depth of 137, with a vertical of 101' - 12 hour trip

3/3/09 – GEPKS – Jefferson Co, WV – GPS Rt 230 Pit, Caver along Shenandoah River, & Middleway Pit - Bob

3/4/09 – GEPKS – Jefferson, Co, WV – Pictures of cave along Shenandoah River – Bob

3/6/09 – GEPKS – Berkeley Co, WV – Ridgewalk – Bob

3/7/09 - Scott Hollow Cave, Monroe Co, WV Nevin and I went to the 1st downstream sump, along the way we checked on the dye traps. For the past 2 months Melissa Bishop has been working on her master thesis on hydrology. Dye traps have been placed throughout the cave at all major resurgence. There is still tremendous potential in the upstream part of the cave. One day there might be a new camp way beyond the present one. Nevin and I checked the traps in Middle Earth , Double Waterfall & below Craigs Creek - 3 hrs - Billy & Nevin Gibberson

3/7/09 - Bone-Norman Caves, Greenbrier Co, WV. Will send a trip report & some photo soon..... Nikki & Chris

3/7/09 - Tim McDougale, Bill & Gail Sherman, Roxanne Shively, Charles Kahn, Doug Duncan, Keely Owen, Phil Whitt and Dana? On March 7, 2009 went to Scott Hollow, Monroe Co, WV to view Mystic River. Got turned around in the

I.#5 **MAY** **2009** **79**

Junction Room but discovered Mastodon Ave eventually for our egress. Sherman had a terrible case of flatulence.

3/8/09 - Lost World Caverns, Greenbrier Co, WV - Rappels: 120' - We joined our Extreme Rappels friends for a day of fun in the sun. Nikki & Chris

3/9/09 - Shovel Eater, Pendleton Co, WV
Survey trip with GVKs – Nikki & Chris

3/14/09 – Adam Stephen Dig – John Di, Andrew Stevens, Todd Roberts, Ted Kaiser, James Durst, Jimmy Kackley, Douglas Kretzer, Richard Divver, Jeff & Carrie Marcum, Dave Cunningham, Keith Hammersla, Scott Wean, Danny Frost, & Bob B even made an appearance after he got out of the hospital – Martinsburg, Berkeley Co, WV – 163 buckets & 26' deep

3/17/09 – GEPKS – Berkeley Co, WV – Ridgewalk & looked for cave entrance near Hedgesville

3/20/08 – GEPKS – Jefferson & Berkeley Co, WV – Investigate closures – Bob

3/21/09 - Ironically when you guys started slowing down, I finally got underground again. On the weekend of March 21st, I drove out to the Mojave, met up with James and we did a couple of caves (sorta).

The first was Mitchell Caverns, San Bernardino Co, Mojave National Preserve, CA, a commercial cave. It's really two smaller caves combined by a man made tunnel. The guy who got it during the depression era did it by making several mining claims... something like 50 I think, to get all the property. There are a couple of pathetic attempts at mining there as well, and James and I wandered into two of those. The commercial portion is very well decorated for something so small. It even had a couple shields, though not one as impressive as those at Grand Caverns, of course. Afterwards we found the spot where more of the cave once was located, across a wash. Unfortunately since it's on National Preserve land, they're not allowed to dig it open!

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#24

We spent the night in the campground by the caverns and barely got any sleep, thanks to a windstorm. When we got up in the morning, the inside of the tent was full of dirt. We packed up and drove off, planning to stay elsewhere that night and after setting up a new camp on the other side of the mountains, we jumped in James's car and went for a drive. A very wet drive... it started pouring on us after awhile.

Luckily after a couple of hours the rain stopped, just in time for us to go searching for a lava tube that was labeled on the map. Its official map name was... Lava Tube. It was very small, lots of collapses, but we got there with perfect timing. We climbed down a set of metal steps into a collapse, walked inside, duck-walked a short way and walked into a room with 4 skylights well overhead. Between the sun rays coming in and the dust in the air, I got some great photos. After that we just wandered into some little ash shelters and that was it for our 'caving' trip. Photos, of course, are online. Adios! Ehren Gieske

3/23/09 - Made it into Hoffman School Cave, Pendleton Co, WV to remove dataloggers from the bats there - Jeff Hajenga, Craig Stihler, Jack Wallace, Kieran O'Malley, Rick Doyle, Barb Douglas and a crew of four from ABC news who were filming a story for Good Morning America on WNS and ongoing research. About 4 hours in cave.

3/23/09 – GEPKS – Berkeley Co, WV – GPS Tadpole #2, #3, #4 - #3 & #4 are digs – Bob

3/24/09 – GEPKS – Jefferson Co, WV – GPS JD #1, #2, & #3 & Opequon #1 dig – Bob

3/28/09 - Sites Cave, Pendleton Co, WV Rappels: 220' - This was a pre-VAR trip that Chris & I took several of our JMU vertical friends to. Nikki & Chris

4/4/09 - Bill & Gail Sherman, Tim McDougale, Phil Whitt and his granddaughter Brook did Via Ferrata at Nelson Rocks Preserve on. It's a real workout and has some exposed spots. It has a few dicey spots including a wire bridge traverse.

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The wind was really blowing hard that day adding to the sense of adventure. The trail leading back to the vehicles turned out to be a bigger challenge. The extreme pitch soon had the quads, hams and calves burning. Knee issues were ubiquitous. Check them out on their website: www.nelsonrockspreserve.com
Tim McDougle

We have also been busy building a climbing wall/tower 28ft - Bill Sherman

4/4/09 - Madison Saltpeter Cave, Augusta Co, Va. Survey & photography trip with Blue Ridge Grotto – Nikki & Chris

5/4/09 - I took the 10th Grade class from Waldorf School of Baltimore on a karst geology trip this past Monday. We visited various surface sites in the Warm Springs Valley and southern Bath County, including the Jefferson Pools, Falling Spring Falls, and the entrance to Crossroads Cave (we didn't go in). We also looked at various types of sinkholes, sinking streams and resurgences.

5/5/09 - We went caving in Porter's Cave, Bath Co, VA on Tuesday. The kids really enjoyed the entire trip, and from what their instructors tell me, they learned a great deal - Bob Denton - NSS 24418

5/9/09 - Was at the Spring 2009 WVASS Meeting (May 9) in Unis, West Virginia. The two hour meeting discussed what's going on in West Virginia and upcoming WVASS Bulletins. West Virginia currently has 4438 caves – Bob Gulden

5/9/09 – Adam Stephen Day – Bob, Paulette, Linda, John & Lynn Di - Led 211 people to both dig sites – Martinsburg, Berkeley Co, WV

Earl and I have been hiking more lately. We've been to SNP a few times and hiked some portions of the AT near our house - Cheryl Suitor

When I decided to go to Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV with a few young friends I never thought I would have to unlock the gate with a big black snake above my head. It wasn't until I tried to move him by picking him up that I could get the lock off. I have to remember not worry about snakes so much. After all that stress and worry he really did just want to get away. Everyone had a good time. We didn't get too far as the time was mostly spent turning lights off to see the dark and ooing and ahing at the flowstone. Climbing over the rocks was alot of fun and the squeeze we found in the back was perfect for them to get the feel of it. I was really happy that they could have that experience!!! Thank you all for your help.
Tina Blaik



Chris in Howell Cave



Lava Tube on Navajo Reservation



SAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 10TH - JUNE 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10 	May 11	May 12	May 13 Grotto Meeting 7pm	May 14	May 15	May 16 ARMED FORCES DAY
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21 KY Speleofest - Lonestar Preserve	May 22 KY Speleofest	May 23 KY Speleofest
May 24 KY Speleofest	May 25 KY Speleofest MEMORIAL DAY	May 26	May 27	May 28 SERA Cave Carnival - Walker Co, GA	May 29 SERA Cave Carnival	May 30 SERA Cave Carnival
May 31 SERA Cave Carnival	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5 Bubble Work Weekend	Jun 6 Bubble Weekend
Jun 7 Bubble Weekend	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10 Grotto meeting 7pm	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13
Jun 14 FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 WV DAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Sean Wootten in Howell Cave

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

2- TRIP LOG

3- SATURDAY, MAY 11TH - TSG PICNIC

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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