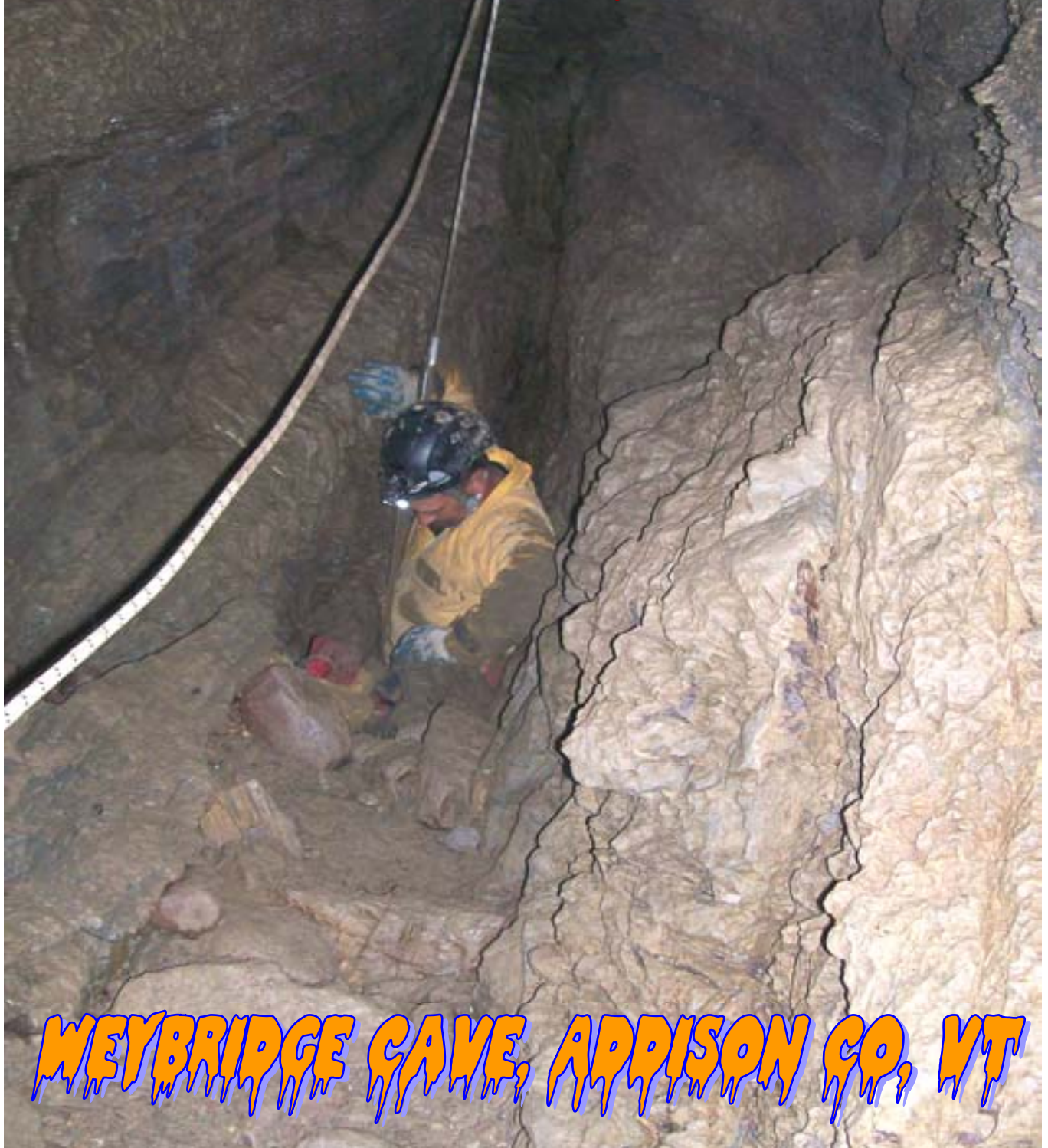


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH

## TRI-STATE GRATTA



WEYBRIDGE CAVE, ADDISON CO, VT

VOL. #25

ISS. #8

AUG

2010

#93



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

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
or can be SENT TO:

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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Bennett in Weybridge Cave, Addison Co, VT. In the photo Larry Fisher is ascending up through the tight spot at the 45' drop.

\*\*\*\* 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))

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING**

**POSITIONS:  
PROGRAM CHAIR  
MEMBER at LARGE**

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



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

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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)  
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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY

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# CAVING EVENTS

## 2010

AUG 2-6 -- NSS Convention, Essex Jcnctn, VT  
AUG 11 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm  
AUG 14 ---- Dig at Crystal Grottoes – 10am  
SEP 2-6 ---- **OTR**  
SEP 4 ----- Doo Dah Parade  
SEP 4 ----- Polyester Power Hour  
SEP 6 ----- LABOR DAY  
SEP 8 ----- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm  
SEP 11 ---- Fall Bash at Fisher's Landing-see JC  
SEP 11 ---- PATRIOT'S DAY  
SEP 12 ---- Grand Parent's Day  
SEP 15-17 – Karst Conference – at the USFW  
Conservation Training Center  
SEP 23 ---- AUTUMN EQUINOX  
OCT 1-3 --- Fall MAR/VAR – Friar Hole  
OCT 8-11 – Fall TAG Cave-In, Lookout Mt, TN  
OCT 11 ---- COLUMBUS DAY  
OCT 13 ---- TSG Grotto Meeting 7pm  
OCT 15-17 - Take youth from the Restoration Camp  
caving – see Bob  
OCT 16 ---- Bridge Day  
OCT 31 ---- ALL HALLOW EVE  
NOV 2 ---- ELECTION DAY  
NOV 7 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
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 ---- ANNUAL TSG CHRISTMAS  
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 2-6 ---- 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 July ----- **\$20.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ---- **\$4802.00**

### Keep It Coming!

## WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
NSS Convention 2010 ----- <http://www.ics2009.us/>  
OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
Andy Celmer ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/)  
Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
Ehren Gieske ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/)  
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
Vitas Eidukevicius ---- [www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/](http://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/](http://s63.photobucket.com/albums/h143/Todd_05/)  
Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
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/)  
WNS ----- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>  
Containment Procedures ----- <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>  
Crystal Grottoes Caverns ----- [www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)

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## MONTH OF AUGUST

Matthew Amundson, Jerry Bowen, John DiCarlo, Linda Kling, JJ Pate, Jordan Walthers

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

### Tri-State Grotto Meeting 7-14-10

Chair Bernie Wootten opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. We had 19 people present.

Jerry Bowen gave the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report and the minutes were moved, seconded and passed.

Bob Bennett reported that nothing has been done on the web site.

#### Old business

None was brought up.

#### New business

We talked about the Doodah parade. Bob Bennett talked about some of our past entrees. Brent Jefferson talked about a cave that he had recently come across. It is in Hardy County. There will be a trip soon.

#### Projects

John Di Carlo talked about the last Adam Stephen Dig. Sean Wootten talked about the new dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. They have been

digging almost every Friday. The dig is going on 20 feet deep. We will look at it at the Grotto picnic on Saturday.

John Di Carlo talked about the new Grotto T-Shirts. We have eight left, \$10 each.

#### Caving Trips

Jerry Bowen talked about the Bubble Cave weekend.

Bob Bennett talked about going into Maxwellton Cave. There is a new entrance that was blasted into.

Bob Bennett talked about going to Frog Hollow Cave.

Jason talked about going to Higginbotham's Cave at VAR.

Todd Zimmerman talked about Higginbotham's #6. To get in, slide on your back eight feet, then crawl. It is full of formations.

Terry McClanathan talked about a Scott Cave trip with Cory Hackley. It is 400 ft deep. Terry also talked about Brier Pit and Grapevine. Terry went to The Omega System which is the deepest in the east.

#### Upcoming Events

Tri-State Grotto Picnic - 12:00 noon at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

Crystal Grottoes Dig - August 14 10:00 am.

OTR - September 2 - 6,

Fall Bash - September 11

N.S.S. Convention - 1<sup>st</sup> week of August.

Jerry Bowen collected \$20 for Cave Bucks which will go to WVCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

# GROTTO NEWS & TRIPS

## 2010 NSS Convention Aug 2-6

The Grotto was well represented at the 2010 NSS Convention at Essex Junction, VT. We had 13 members attend the convention. And yes it was a cool convention, but not all the time though. One night it got down into the 50's but Friday night it was in the mid 40's. We also had 3 days that were at 90 or above. Friday was in the 70's, quite a roller coaster of temperatures. Of course we had Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream at the Howdy Party. It was also VERY green up there, not brown like it is down here!



The self-guided waterfall tour was a big hit but you couldn't go by all the mileage totals that the guidebook provided. After having trouble finding the 1st waterfall we decided to put the provided coordinates in the GPS & we used that to find the remaining falls. Paulette & I split the tour up into 2 days. The 1<sup>st</sup> day was on Sunday & the waterfalls had plenty of water falling. But by the time we finished the tour it had stormed pretty severely to the north & east of us. Of course the waterfalls then were over flowing

with water because all the rivers & streams were flooding!



I went caving on Tuesday and Friday. Paulette & I also played mini-golf on 2 evenings. One was an outside course & the other was an inside course.



Paulette & I traveled to White River Junction on Thursday to ride the Green Mt RR Train. The ride was a 2 hr round trip. The train followed the Connecticut River most of the way. Just like the river the train ride was a lazy slow trip.

On Thursday monster trucks started arriving for a monster truck show on Saturday. We got to see Grave Digger, El Toro Loco, Sergeant Smash, Raminator, Rammunition, & Crustation. We even got to talk to the driver of Crustation. One evening we even attended a car show.



On Friday evening at the banquet we had another member receive Fellow status. Jerry Bowen received the NSS Fellow award!!! It was quite a day for Jerry. You couldn't see his face for the grin he had!!!! LOL!



On Saturday we had to be out of the campground by 10 am. We then headed to NY and stopped by Natural Stone Bridge & Caves near Pottersville. This was a real treat. Although very commercialized, the tour was self guided and consisted of walkways and bridges over several acres of trails showing cave entrances, cliffs, small waterfalls, pot holes, and the largest marble cave entrance in the east. The trails even went inside several of the cave entrances for 50-100 feet or so.



From there we headed home!

Bob

## Grotto Picnic at Crystal Grottoes Jul 17

The Grotto held its annual summertime celebration on Sat, Jul 17<sup>th</sup>. The weather was a little warm but the kids had fun splashing around in the nearby stream. There was quite an array of food presented.

Carl Amundson put up a rope & several people practiced climbing and change-overs. We had 35 people attend the event.

CONGRATS JERRY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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# A Significant New Maryland Cave: McMahon's Mill Cave #3

McMahon's Mill cave # three was discovered in February of 2005 by Corey Hackley, Joe Clemens, and Craig Main. While searching for cave #2, steam was observed issuing from a triangular hole several inches across in the floor of a shallow crevice. A rock drop first clattered twice; then, as the ridge walkers were about to stand, they were surprised by a deep boom sounding from the bottom of the pit. A second drop produced the same result, and a mad flurry of rock dropping ensued. This of course did little more than increase our enthusiasm. We returned the same week to dig.

After digging several hours in the crevice, and moving several VERY large rocks, it became clear that the crevice narrowed to several inches in width before widening again. Either chemical persuasion would have to be employed, or we would have to give up. Despondent, Craig and I agreed to paw at a barely noticeable depression a few feet away, just in case.

The mattock hit the ground 3 or 4 times and the soil crumbled downwards. Rocks clattered. Within moments, nothing stood between us and the manhole sized opening but a large, foot ball shaped rock. Craig and I wrestled the rock upwards, but on the brink of success lost it down the hole. It fell perhaps 4 feet and lodged hopelessly. Warm moist air rushed up from the hole and a stream was audible deep below. Obviously, we weren't ready to give up easily.

We returned the same week armed with tools and rope to try and break the rock away. We tried a few methods. First, we beat on it with a digging iron. Second, we beat on it with hammers. Third, we beat on it with other rocks. Finally, Craig insisted that I tie his feet together and lower him headfirst to do battle with the rock. After some persuasive language, I found myself lowering Craig down the hole head first. This too failed.

What eventually brought success was a combination of methods. We started by laying the digging iron across the hole laterally, and tying a rope to the middle of the bar. Then we tied the rope around the

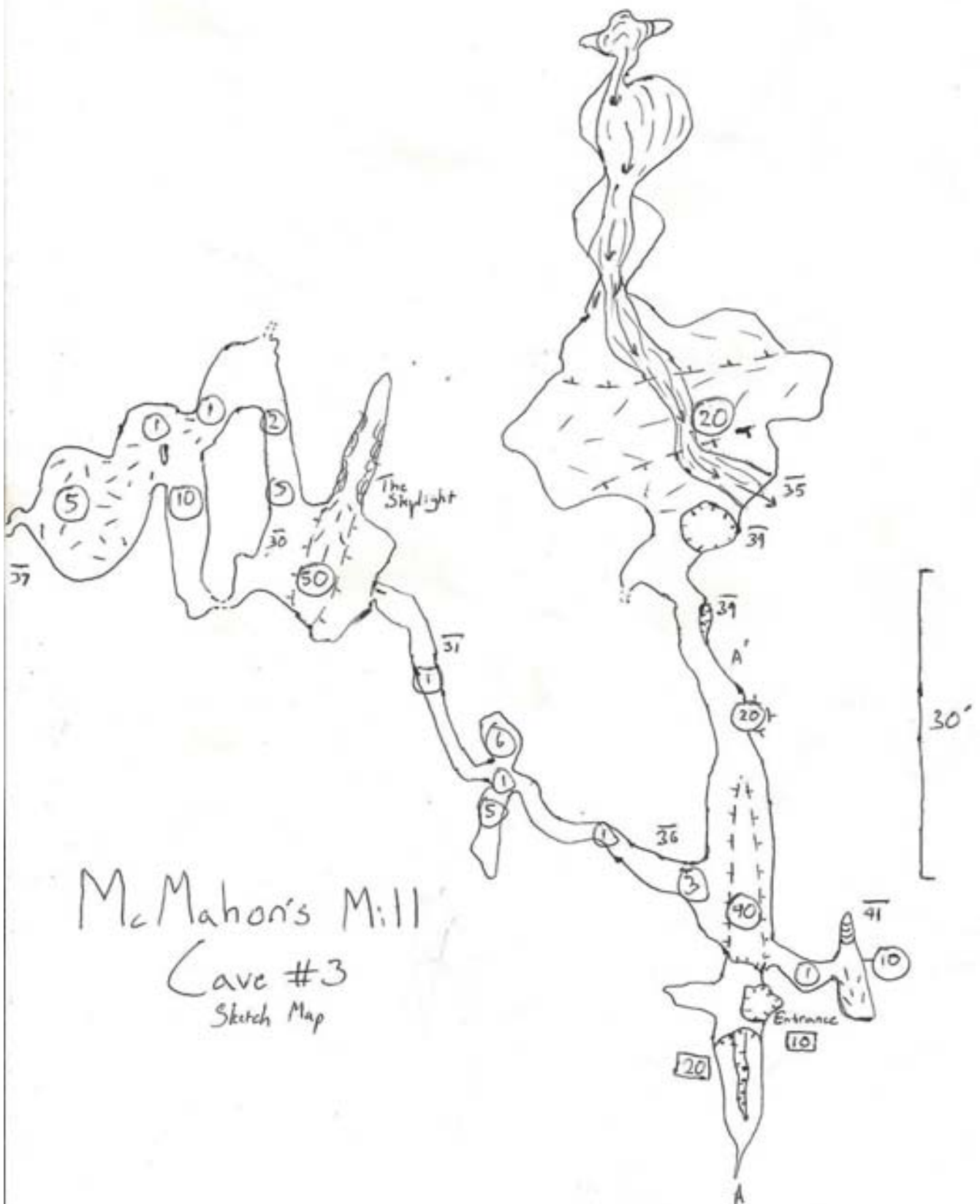
rock and lifted the bar, one end at a time. While one of us lifted the bar, the other would throw a rock underneath. We repeated this until the tension on the line to the rock was exerting a huge deal of pressure on the rock. By beating on it, we were able to pop it loose, and between the two of us haul the rock up over the lip of the pit. The way was clear.

The cave consists of two branches. From the base of the entrance pit, the larger of these passages heads along a prominent joint to the northwest. It is 3 to 40 feet high, and 3 to 6 feet wide. After about 60 feet, this passage ducks under some interesting formations to open into the large River Room. Here and only here the elusive McMahon's mill main stem subterranean stream flows in its full volume. For a Maryland cave stream, it really carries quite a bit of water! After a series of small, wet rooms about 40 feet long, the air filled passage ends in a sump. This sump is probably large enough to permit exploration with dive gear, if anyone ever is curious enough to attempt it. Back at the entrance, an obvious side passage at the base of the pit quickly becomes a sinuous belly crawl. This passage continues as such for about 100 feet, where it opens to a high, formation filled fissure about 50 feet high. At its ceiling is a skylight to the surface, visible only from certain angles, and only several inches in diameter. The passage continues as a comfortable crawl from this fissure through a couple tight spots to a final, circular room. A short passage at the far side of this room is suspected to connect to McMaho's Mill cave #1 due to predictable air movement.

All told, McMahon's Mill cave is estimated to contain about 350 feet of passage and 50 feet of relief. It is a unique cave to its area and very interesting due to the information it provides about the McMaho's mill cave system as a whole. Muddy water was noticed passing through deep conical clay pits in nearby Howell cave about an hour after the stream in McMaho's Mill #3 had been disturbed. The volume of water in the stream suggests a very large drainage basin, and if the cave is ever opened to visitation, it will deserve much study.

The cave is on private land and is to be considered closed. Please do not go looking for this cave. For more information, contact the author.

Corey Hackley





# SAVVY CALENDAR

## AUGUST 8TH - SEPTEMBER 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11  Meeting 7pm	Aug 12	Aug 13	Aug 14 Crystal Grotto's dig 10am
Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21
Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28
Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1	Sep 2 OTR	Sep 3 OTR	Sep 4 OTR DOO DAH PARADE 10AM POLYESTER POWER HOUR 12PM
Sep 5 OTR	Sep 6 OTR  LABOR DAY	Sep 7	Sep 8  MEETING 7PM	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11 FALL BASH PATRIOT'S DAY
Sep 12 Grand Parent's Day	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15 Karst Conference	Sep 16 Karst Conference	Sep 17 Karst Conference	Sep 18

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Beethovens Symphony

**1- NEW NSS FELLOW!!!**

**2- MCMAHONS MILL #3**



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TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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**TO:**

