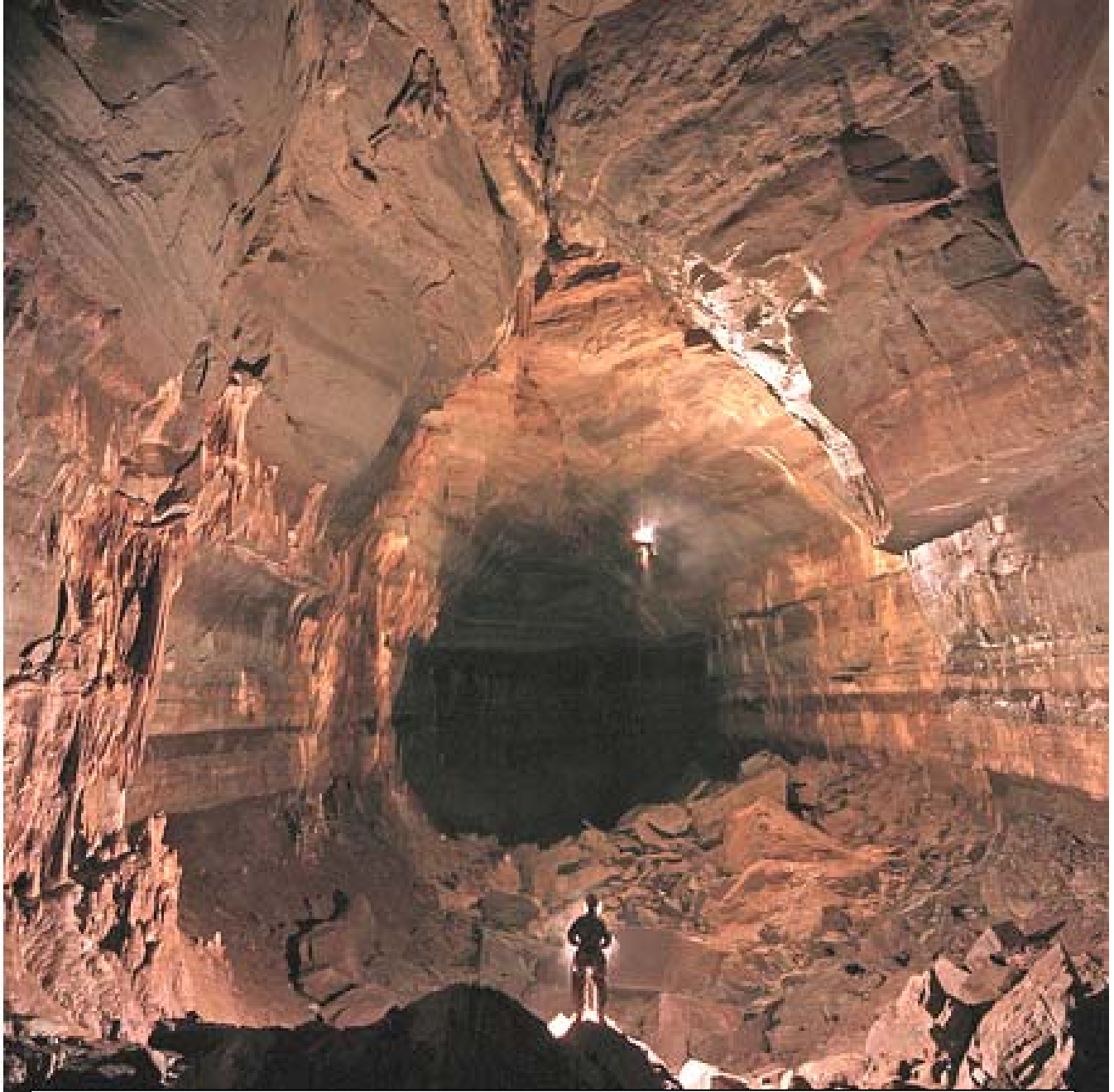


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



Many of you will recognize this as the Big Room in Cass. Brian Masney took this photo showing a caver (Terry McClanathan) suspended about sixty feet from the floor on rappel from the Celestial Skyway, an aide climb by Aaron Moses which leads to one of the new passages found during the re-survey.



(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:

The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a publication of the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO** of the NSS. The OPINIONS expressed herein are not necessarily those of the EDITOR, the GROTTTO, nor the NSS. Material that is unsigned may be attributed to the EDITOR. Material contained within this PUBLICATION may be reproduced by the NSS and its GROTTTOS, provided that PROPER CREDIT is given to the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** and the AUTHOR.

JERRY BOWEN, TREASURER
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
17817 STONE VALLEY CR.
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
301-790-0476

E-MAIL: bookmaker-jb@myactv.net

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
304-579-4304

E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS**. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO**.

*** The photo on the cover was taken by Brian Masney in the Big Room in Cass Cave, Pocohontas Co, WV

All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER THAN THE **25TH** 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 or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at jcf@access.mountain.net)

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

- CHAIR ----- Bernie Wootten ----- 301-254-1055
- V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304
- TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476
- SECRETARY ---- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323
- Member At Large --- -----
- Membership Chair --- Bob Bennett ---304-579-4304
- Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ---304-579-4304
- Conservation Chair--Corey Hackley --301-432-2257
- P R Chair ----- JC Fisher ----- 304-258-4974
- Safety Chair ----- Carl Amundson ----540-955-0611
- Program Dir -----
- Funding ----- Paulette Bennett -----304-579-4304
- Equip. Chair ----Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304

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!

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**



CAVING EVENTS

2010

DEC 8 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
 DEC 11 ---- ANNUAL TSG CHRISTMAS
 CELEBRATION at Bob & Paulette's
 home 6pm
 DEC 12 ---- Christmas caving
 DEC 18 ---- FRG Holiday gathering – 5pm
 DEC 21 ---- WINTER SOLSTICE
 DEC 24 ---- CHRISTMAS EVE
 DEC 25 ---- CHRISTMAS DAY
 DEC 31 ---- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2011

JAN 1 ----- NEW YEAR'S DAY
 JAN 12 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
 JAN 17 ----- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 FEB 2 ----- GROUND HOG DAY
 FEB 9 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm – Slide show on
 Carols Crack Cave presented by Ed Devine
 FEB 14 ----- VALENTINE'S DAY
 FEB 21 ----- PRESIDENT'S DAY
 MAR 9 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
 MAR 17 ----- ST PATRICK'S DAY
 APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
 APR 13 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm
 APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
 APR 22 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
 APR 24 ----- EASTER
 APR 29 – MAY 1 – SPRING VAR @ Durbin, WV –
 Sponsored by FRG
 MAY 8 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
 MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
 MAY 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 MAY 30 ----- MEMORIAL DAY
 JUN 10-12 ---- Bubble weekend
 JUN 8 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
 JUN 19 ----- FATHER'S DAY
 JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
 JUL 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JUL 18-22 ---- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs,
 CO
 AUG 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 SEP 3-5 ----- **OTR!!!!**
 SEP 5 ----- LABOR DAY

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 ----- **\$17.00**

Month of November ----- **\$5.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: --- **\$4880.00**

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/
 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/

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V. #25

I. #11

DEC

2010

141

WNS -----
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>
Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html>
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com



MONTH OF OCTOBER

Bob Denton, Margaret Hanson, Craig
Stihler

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Tri-State Grotto Meeting Oct 13, 2010

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 pm.
18 people were present.

Mail call

The WVCC Banquet is Nov 13.
We received the Southeast Cave Conservatory
Ballot. There was a discussion about for whom
we should vote.

Jerry Bowen gave the Treasurer's report. It was
moved, seconded and passed.

New business.

No new business.

Old business

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V. #25

I. #11

DEC

2010

142

Brent Jefferson talked about the Baker gating
project, November 20-21, 2010. It was moved to
rent two port-a-pots. It was seconded and passed.
It was moved, seconded and passed to spend
\$250 for food.

If you would like to be part of the field house,
then we need to know by December 1, 2010.

Trip reports.

Jerry Bowen talked the Fall VAR. On Saturday
he went to Poor Farm Cave. It is mostly
borehole. 268 turned out for the event.

Sean Wootten talked about a trip to Frog Hollow
Cave. Sean took Todd and Jason to Bone Cave.

Adam Stephen Dig November 13, 2010

Gating Baker Quarry Nov 20, 2010

Tanner talked about a trip to Scott Hollow. They
camped inside the cave. They went past the
Mastodon Bone, a 27-hour trip.

We collected \$17 in Cave Bucks. It will be sent
to WVCC.

No caving on federal land, there is still a
moratorium on caving.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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

Tri-State Grotto
Meeting
Nov 10, 2010

Chair Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7
pm.

Jerry Bowen received a thank you for our Cave Bucks donation from WVCC.

Jerry Bowen gave the treasurer's report. It was moved, seconded and passed.

WVCC Banquet is this weekend.

Old business:

Nothing new on the Baker Field house.

Auction - everyone has paid.

Adam Stephen dig will be this Saturday.

Baker Gating - Brent Jefferson has donations for food from Wal-Mart, Wagmans, Sunoco and Martins. The dates for the gating are Nov 20 and maybe 21.

New business:

There will be a Crystal Grottoes Caverns dig January 15, 2011.

Bob talked about the gating at Ogden's cave.

Bob spoke about the trip to Whitings Neck Cave. There were 50 people 13 to 15 years old. 15 went on the 1st trip into the cave. The rest went over and checked out the sinkhole. Then they swapped places and the rest went into the cave. Each trip took 1 ½ to 1 ¾ hours.

Adam Stephen Dig Saturday at 9 am.

Baker Quarry Gating Nov 20

Crystal Grottoes Dig January 15.

There will be a December meeting.

Tri-State Grotto Christmas party will be Dec 11, 2010 at the Bennett's.

We collected \$5.00 in Cave Bucks, which will be sent to WVCC.

Nominations were held.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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

Sinkhole closes lane of traffic - journal-news.net | News, sports, jobs, community information for Martinsburg - The JournalMobile:

BREAKING NEWS» Sinkhole closes lane of traffic - Local News
Sinkhole closes lane of traffic, Oct 22, 2010 - By Erienne Maczuzak, Journal staff writer

MARTINSBURG - A sinkhole of unknown proportion closed down the southbound lane of Interstate 81 Friday afternoon. The sinkhole was located near the 7.5 mile marker between the Inwood and Tabler Station exits, according to Berkeley County Central Dispatch. A Central Dispatch official also advised that a call regarding the sinkhole came in at approximately 1:30 p.m. and is being repaired. At 4:15 p.m., traffic was still backed up, but moving slowly. A representative from the West Virginia Division of Highways could not be reached for comment.

TRAFFIC ALERT: Sinkhole Repairs on Southbound I-81 in WV - Local News - Hagerstown, MD - News - msnbc.com - WHAG-TV - BERKELEY COUNTY, WV - Southbound traffic on Interstate-81 near the Virginia and West Virginia border is near stand-still because of a sinkhole. Highway officials say the four feet wide, three feet deep depression was spotted by state workers and is being filled with an accelerant cement to have the roadway patched and dried as soon as possible. The highway is currently down to a single lane and officials predict the closed lane will reopen by

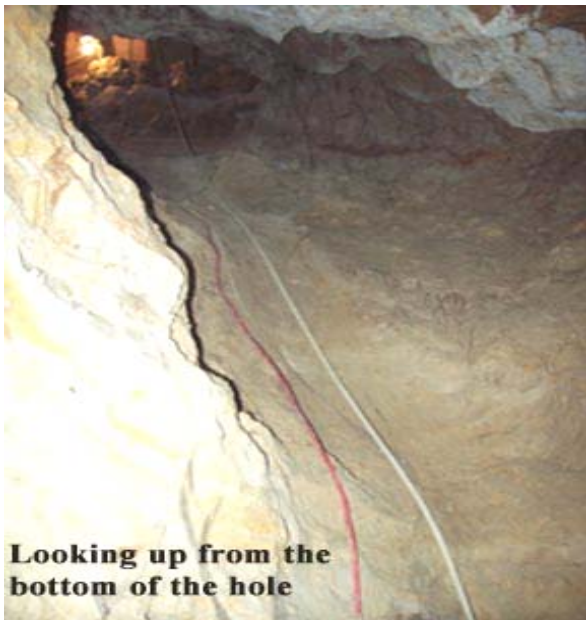
Saturday morning. No accidents were reported when the sinkhole opened up.

TRIP REPORTS

The Adam Stephen Dig 11-13-10

By John Di Carlo

Martinsburg, WV - Tri-State Grotto returned to the Adam Stephen House in search of the elusive tunnels.



Russell Linton, Philip Edmands, Keith Hammersla, John Di Carlo, Bob Bennett, Todd Zimmerman and John Roche were the workers.



The digging started. John Di Carlo, then Russell Linton dug before lunch. We pulled up 26 buckets by lunchtime.



Keith had put together a nice lunch, with all the trimmings, for us. We went back to our dig stuffed.



Bob Bennett slid down the hole and started sending buckets up. When we next changed

diggers, Bob said to send down the Wacker. This time instead of renting one we had borrowed one from Jerry Downs from Crystal Grottoes Caverns.



Todd Zimmerman down at the bottom of the hole

Todd Zimmerman took the Wacker down and was soon sending filled buckets up.



Keith Hammersla carrying a bucket out

We pulled out 56 buckets after lunch for a total of 82 buckets for the day.



This is what we moved the dirt in

Return to Cass

Being a vertical enthusiast, Cass was, of course, one of my favorite caves. During the early years I enjoyed many fun and challenging trips there. It has been nearly twenty years since my last visitation. In fact, the last time was a Franklin County Grotto trip. Shortly after that access issues developed. There were rumors of closure by the owner. Fish and Wildlife was taking issue because of the bats. I made inquiries and was informed that the cave was to be considered closed. Then there was WNS. Fortunately there were plenty of other exciting things to do in TAG and elsewhere, so I decided to leave well enough alone.

I'd heard of the existence of a second entrance for quite some time. I'd also known that Gangsta Mappers under the leadership of Bob Zimmerman had special permission to complete the mapping project begun over a decade earlier. Brian Masney, a Morgantown area caver and active with the GVKS, invited me on what could be one of the final mapping trips. I was interested in going in the "new" entrance, and of course just being in the cave again after all those years would be a real treat too. The trip was scheduled for the last weekend of October.

Upon arrival, I was surprised to see so many of the regular GVKS cavers present. Several teams with different objectives would be working in the cave simultaneously. For our team, consisting of just me and Brian, our goals were photography, a vertical profile of the connection area, and a dig/survey at the end of one of the newly discovered passages leading from the top of the Big Room.

Brian led me to the Cass Annex entrance, which I'd never been to before. He said we'd have to do a pull down since he thought that part of the cave had been derigged. He said that entrance was not very popular due to muddy conditions and lots of crawling. He was taking a lot of photo gear, so the 180' pull-down rope loaned to us by John Harman was mine to manage. The small entrance began as a climb down to a 20 foot pit. This lead to a short stooping passage which quickly deteriorated to hands and knees and then a belly crawl. This section was well decorated but also generously coated with thick, sticky mud: you know what I mean, the kind that just sticks to everything in heavy clumps. I was glad I'd opted to wear my PVC suit instead of a regular cave suit. The passage continued in this manner for several hundred more feet. Both the rope and my pack were resembling big muddy "snowballs". In places there were areas of thickly packed clear straws. All in all the passage was not very much fun, but the pretties helped some.

This was Brian's third or fourth trip and, as we neared the connection area, he gave me a little background history. Brian told me the connection was actually made from the Cass side. In the early 90's some aid climbing in the vicinity of the high dome containing the splattermites (located just past the end of the Big Room) lead to a couple of up-trending fissures. Explorers free-climbed up a twentyish foot pit that seemed to dead end except for a small channel in the ceiling. There seemed to be a void on the other side of a mud plug at the top of the pit. They pushed the mud wall over and found

themselves in a passage with footprints. The connection to Cass Annex had been made.

Brian lead me through the body length low spot where the plug used to be to the twenty foot pit. Below this were a couple of climb downs and then we were standing on a sloping ledge with the vastness of the Splattermite Dome before us. The dome extends upward into blackness. Aaron Moses told me he is hoping to get the opportunity to aid climb it sometime in the future, but he currently has a lot of other climbing projects and wasn't sure when that might be. I did a vertical profile of the connection area, and then Brian and I rigged the 180' rope for a pull down rappel. After clearing some very substantial loose stuff from the sloping ledge, we rappelled down 71 feet to the bottom of the dome. We pulled and coiled John's rope, which was by now quite muddy. It would be coming out of the cave with us. Next we proceeded into the Big Room. We could hear the waterfall whispering in the distance at the far end. The new survey effort had resulted in several aid climbs up the walls of the room in search of more cave. These met with success as several new passages were discovered. A rope hung enticingly down what seemed to be about the middle of the Big Room. Brian thought this had the potential to make a great shot but we needed more personnel than just he and I to pull it off. We would do it on the way back out when others already in the cave would be available to man flashes. This particular route had been climbed by Aaron Moses.

The drop was just over a hundred feet free, and after an awkward section at the top, lead to a muddy passage of walking dimensions. This passage has been dubbed the Celestial Skyway. It turned out to be a fairly straight multi-level canyon. The floor was a series of rimstone dams, but with sections of deep sucking mud between many of them. After floundering through a couple of these, it became apparent that traversing ledges at other levels was the preferred route. We followed this for 600 or 700

feet to the “end”. That’s where we encountered Mark Minton and Yvonne Droms. Mark was nearing completion of a dome climb and Yvonne was belaying him.

Our dig was just past them at floor level. Brian took his hammer and went to work on the lead. Mark announced that he was finished with the climb and wanted to get a measurement on it. I climbed up with my hundred foot survey tape. Mark passed some of his aid climbing gear and drill off to me. The dome taped at 50’. Later that night, Bob Zimmerman informed us that the top of the dome established a new high point for the cave. Bob also volunteered that the new vertical extent for Cass was 323’. The dig Brian was working on proved to be a no-go. While Mark and Yvonne derigged and removed hardware from the fifty foot dome, Brian and I tied in and set four new stations for about a hundred feet of survey.

The four of us retreated more or less together back to the beginning of the Celestial Skyway at the top of the Big Room. Brian recruited Mark and Yvonne to help set up his intended photo of the Big Room with a person on rope dead center. After providing me with several large flash bulbs and instructions, he went down to set up the shot with Mark and Yvonne shooting flashes from various spots in the room. When he was all set up, he signaled me to start rappelling. I was to stop about forty feet down and flash, while Mark and Yvonne lit up from floor level. We made several attempts until Brian was eventually satisfied that he’d captured the desired effect. I haven’t seen the photo yet but I am looking forward to seeing it sometime in the near future. Not everything went smoothly and I ended up spending a long time in my rappel seat. It took a while for circulation to resume when I finally did touch down.

By the time we finished up with the photography, other lights were appearing high up the walls of the Big Room. It was time to start out so as to minimize the bottleneck at the main drop. Yvonne and Mark climbed first, then me. I

had a moderately heavy pack plus John’s 180 mud covered rope tethered below me and the last time I’d climbed that drop I was only in my early 40’s, not 61. It took me a while to get up that 159 feet.

Brian soon followed, and the two of us started our exit as other teams were tandem climbing the drop. The cave was drier than I remember ever seeing it, so the 150’ water crawl wasn’t very intimidating. After that, it’s just an easy walk for about 700’ and we were out by about 9:30, having spent about 11 hours in the cave. It was nice to see some new parts of the cave after all those years. After the survey is complete, the access status will likely remain tenuous at best. If Aaron has plans to climb the Splattermite Dome, I suppose there may still be a trip or two in my future, or at least I hope so. Many thanks to Bob Zimmerman and the Gangsta Mappers for all their efforts in the re-survey project. Special appreciation to Aaron and Mark for their climbing exploits, and thanks to Brian for including me and taking me in the Cass Annex entrance. I had a great trip.

Terry McClanathan (12103)

Baker Quarry Gating Project

Baker, WV

Date: November 20th (Saturday)

Weather: Clear sky & temps in the mid-50’s

Attendees / Volunteers: 28 adults + kids

Beginning at 8AM Saturday morning there were a few campers parked off the main road along the flat quarried lot. There was a pile of steel beams & angle iron on one side, welders / generators nearby, and tables & chairs with coffee, drink, snacks and the makings for chili. Throughout the morning more & more people pulled in to the quarry lot.

The first task was to clear the big hill of brush & trees while welders / generators were situated & cables run to the 2-quarry openings. The steel beams were first hauled up the big hill and set in place. Measurements for the angles were then called down for cutting & the fabrication process was under way. Some of the drilling took 3 & 4 people to push the drill where there was hardly room to push the drill. Before noon, we identified that there wasn't enough steel to finish the 2-gates, so a friend of mine, John Puckett, who provided the majority of the steel on site the night before, called a friend who manages a steel supply yard in Strasburg, and drove to pick up an additional 200 feet of steel. John, thank you very much!!

Ed Devine, one of the surveyors and cartographers of the quarry and Carol's Crack Cave, brought his map to show to all the volunteers which showed about 1.25 miles of cave passage. Throughout the day he took pictures & video of the gating process but couldn't keep his hands clean. On Sunday, he shoveled dirt & moved heavy boulders along a gate, to ensure vandals would have a difficult time excavating & breaking-in. This showed that his passion for the quarry and Carol's Crack Cave was still very strong. Thanks to Anya Crane, John Puckett, & Kevin Mulligan for cutting the steel and cutting holes in the steel when needed.

A special thanks goes out to our welders. Craig Hindman, Greg McCoy, & Kevin Mulligan. They worked until about 1:30 am trying to get the job done. The only thing left on Sunday morning was to weld the lock mechanism (which only took about an hour to do.

I would like to say a special thanks to Wegmans, Reston Sunoco, Walmart, and Martins for their support with all our supplies; chili, sandwiches, snacks, coffee, hot chocolate, and munchies. I'd also like to thank Janet Tinkham, Lauren McCoy, and Paulette Bennett for preparing the chili, apple cider, and setting up & maintaining

our food buffet. The chili was a smash hit! If anyone went hungry it's their own fault! Lauren & Paulette even fixed breakfast on Sunday morning for those who spent the night.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who dedicated their weekend to making this project a success.

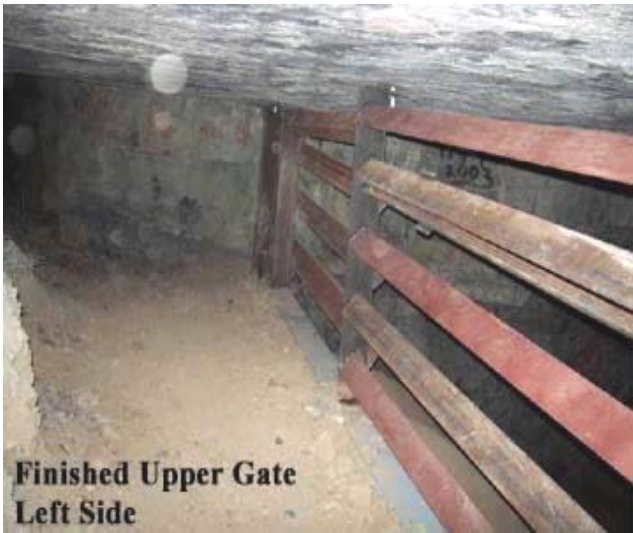
Brent Jefferson



Anya Operating the Cutting Torch (John D)



Main Entrance Looking Down (John D)



Finished Upper Gate
Left Side



Center



Right Side

All 3 Photos by John D.



Photo by Anya C.



Bottom Gate (Anya C)



Bob Helping to Hold Drill (Anya C)



Brent Drilling (Anya C)



Sunbeam (John D)



Tim Is One of Our Casualties! (John D)



Craig Welding (Anya C)



Kevin Cutting Angles (Anya C)



CAVING CALENDAR

DECEMBER 5TH - JANUARY 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8  Meeting 7pm	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11 Annual Christmas Celebration at Bob & Paulette's Home - 6:00 pm
HANUKKAH						
Dec 12  Christmas Caving	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18 Ft Royal Grotto Holiday Celebration 5pm
Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21  SOLSTICE	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24  CHRISTMAS EVE	Dec 25  CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31  NEW YEAR'S EVE	Jan 1  NEW YEAR'S DAY
Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8
Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12  Meeting 7pm	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15