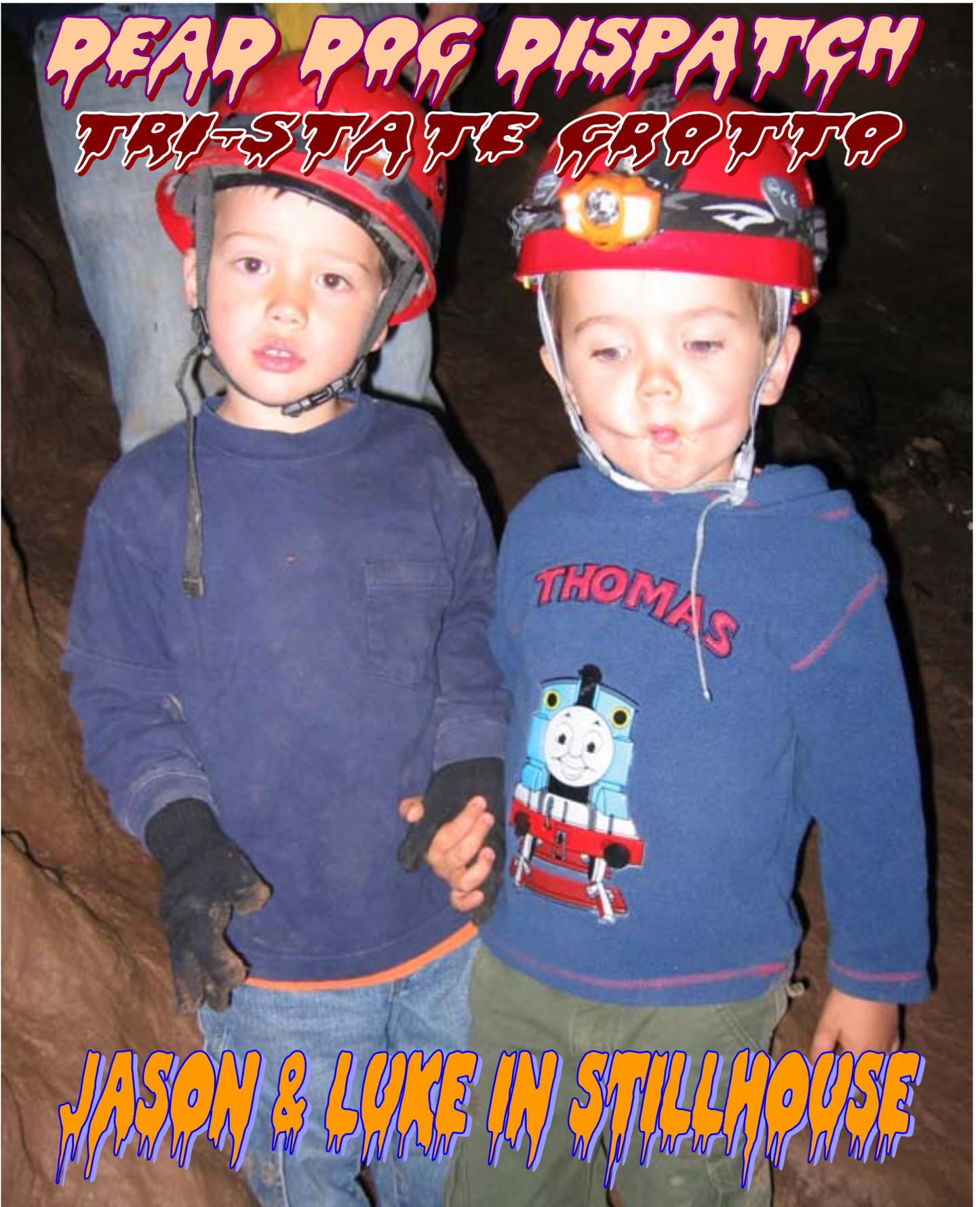


DEAR DAG DISPATCH
TRI-STATE GROTTO



JASON & LUKE IN STILLHOUSE

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(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
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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 photo on the cover was taken by Jeff
Hajenga in Stillhouse Cave. The photo is of his son
Jason Hajenga & Luke Hanson.

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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
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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
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at 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!





Tri-State Grotto Meeting 8-11-10

Bernie Wootten opened the meeting at 7 pm. Three new people introduced themselves. Jerry Bowen read a thank you from WVCC for our donation of Cave Bucks. Jerry Bowen gave the treasurer's report. The minutes and the treasurer's report were moved, seconded and passed. It was announced that Jerry Bowen is now a Fellow in the NSS.

Old Business:

Bob Bennett said that he did not get any doable suggestions for the Doo Dah parade. Bob then talked about what the Doo Dah parade is about. Some people were new and never heard about it. We have one Grotto T-shirt left.

New business:

Bob Bennett talked about the NSS convention. He had some stickers to show us. He also had some Stop WNS magnet stickers that he passed out. Keith Hammersla presented a certificate to Tri-State Grotto. It was in recognition for showing the cave/tunnels at the Adam Stephen House during Heritage Days. Terry McClanathan talked about a cave map he is working on. A question was raised about parking at Whittings Neck Cave. As far as anyone at the meeting knows, the parking rules have not changed. There is a Youth Restoration camp event nearby that will visit Whittings Neck Cave on Saturday, October 16. Bob Bennett said he could use some help with it.

Trips:

Several people talked about caves they went to. Thirty-five people made it to the Grotto Picnic. There were caving trips through Crystal Grottoes Caverns at the start of the picnic and at the end. Carl Amundson set up a climbing tree, and many people tried it out.

Jeff Marcum talked about Sharps Cave.

Bernie Wootten talked about the outside dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

This Saturday is the dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

OTR Sept 2-6

VAR Oct 1-3

Fall Bash Sept 11

Youth Oct 16

Sept 14-20 Sinks of Gandy

Adam Stephen Dig Nov 13

Jerry Bowen talked about a future trip to Gage Cave in New York.

Bob Bennett talked about Vermont and the third longest cave in the state, 1,500 feet.

Twenty-Three people were present at the meeting.

Baker Quarry will be gated in the future, more to follow.

Carols Crack has a water temp of 47 deg.

OTR was discussed and plans were made for some of the activities.

Jerry Bowen collected \$37.00 in Cave Bucks, which will be sent to WVCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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

Tri-State Grotto Meeting 9-8-2010

Bernie Wootten started the meeting at 7:00 pm.
We had 11 people present.

Jerry Bowen showed off his NSS Fellow certificate.

Jerry showed us a thank you letter from WVCC for last month's Cave Bucks.

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

New business:

Bernie Wootten announced that she would not be running for Chairman next election.

Old business:

The Baker Quarry gating project will be Saturday November 20, 2010. Craig Hindman will donate the metal. There are three welders. We will need help moving the steel to the opening.

Benders Cave in Berkeley County, WV has been sold.

Jerry Bowen talked about a trip to Wind Cave near Lancaster County, PA. It has three entrances and blows cold air. That's why it's called Wind cave. The temperature is 38 degrees all the time. Jerry spent 2 hours in the cave.

Bob Bennett talked about OTR. He talked about Tri-State Grotto winning the Doo-Dah Parade. Bob also talked about caving at Swago Cave. The Dress Up trip on Saturday went to Stillhouse Cave. On Sunday Ken and Carolyn Carter went to Sinks of Gandy.

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

Ken Tayman asked about the Adam Stephen Dig. There was a discussion about the progress.

Jerry Bowen talked about pre-registration for VAR. Jerry also talked about things in the region record.

Trips:

Fall bash this Saturday at JC and Judy's.

VAR Oct 1-3, 2010.

Ken Tayman talked about a trip that he had where he carried an antenna through a cave.

Jerry Bowen talked about a trip to NY on Oct 22-24, 2010. Friday they will be going to the Schoharie Cave area. Saturday will be a cave trip to Gage Cave and Knox Cave.

Adam Stephen Dig Nov 13, 2010

Cave Bucks - \$19 was collected and will be sent to WVCC.

The Grant County Bulletin is just out.

The Tri-State Grotto Auction will be next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

We have a new caver/member of Tri-State Grotto. Everyone congratulate Jeff & Carrie Marcum on the birth of their new baby girl. Her name is Alyson Marcum. She was born on Sep 18, 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

TRIP REPORTS

Mothers Group Goes Caving

By John Di Carlo

My daughter Laura Oates asked me if I could take her Mothers Group to Crystal Grottoes Caverns. I called Jerry Downs, owner of the Caverns and secured permission. On August 29, 2010, I met up with the Mothers Group at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. We had eight mothers and eleven children.

We had to wait a little while for a tour to go ahead of us. Our turn came and we filed into the cave house. I introduced Jerry Downs and told the group that he had graciously allowed us to tour the cave today. Jerry received a big round of applause.

We started our tour going down the stairs into the first room. After telling the group the history of how the caverns were found, I pointed out some formations and told everyone the names of them.

We continued through Crystal Palace, Father Time, and the Underside of Jerry's Garden. We went past the highpoint of the cave and started down the passage toward the turnoff to go to the Lake Room. There is a hole in the ceiling on the left that you have to move over to look into. After looking, there is a rock portal you can go through to get back to the main passage. The kids made the loop and continued to go around. Eight kids were on a merry-go-round. They circled many times before the mothers stopped them and we moved on.

We went into the Lake Room past the Snow Covered Mountain and looked into the lake. Circling around, we left the Lake Room and filed into the Blanket Room. I posed them and took a

group shot with the Blankets in the background. The lights were turned off so they could experience total darkness. With the lights back on, we headed out the back passage and out the back door.



Walking back to their cars, they passed Jerry Downs and thanked him again.

Trip to Monroe County

By Bernie Wootten

Sean and I started our trip early and went down to investigate the cave entrances that we planned on visiting and plan out the trip a little better so that we didn't look like total nincompoops when everyone else arrived. We got to the campground at Moncove Lake State Park pretty early but there were no electric sites so we thought "no big deal" and took a non-electric site for the night and then headed out. We went out looking for several caves, identified their entrances and couldn't find some. We talked to a very nice young man who against the advice of his mother drove us to the entrance of one (can't remember its name now as I am writing the trip report 1.5 months after the trip).

After a few disappointments we headed over to Piercys Mill where we had talked to the managers of the cave prior to planning the trip.

We initially had made the decision to go into the entrances of the caves we were going to the next day to see what they were like. We had an awesome time and ended up going further than expected. We went into an annex cave which is also called Beaver cave by the owner. It was a low wet crawl to get in but once inside it opened up some with spiny walls. We went all the way to the back of this cave and saw some pretties in the way back.

After the Annex cave we checked out Piercys and Piercys Mill cave. Both have enormous entrances and lots of walking passage. We walked for a ways in the stream before heading out and taking a good bath outside the cave to decon and then headed back to the camper. Back at the campground we went to make dinner only to realize that we had no lights. We messed with that stinking camper for like 3 hours before finally deciding to give up for the night. Since the electric wouldn't work, our Fridge wouldn't work. We were just hoping that the next morning we could get an electric site so that all our food didn't go bad. It was about 3 AM when Sean and I finally went to bed and we joked that we would call Todd and Jason and wish them good morning and safe travels.

A few hours of sleep later Jason, Todd and his son Steven arrived. We were fortunate enough to find some early risers and moved the camper to an electric site. We packed up our things and headed to Culverson Creek Cave. I was behind with Abby (3) when I saw Steven come running like wild fire back up the hill towards me screaming. I could see small round black and yellow bugs on him that ignored us as he flew by. He apparently peed on a hornet's nest and they did not like the invasion of privacy. I tell you what, that is the last time he will go to some obscure location to take a leak.

Once Steven got calmed and stopped stinging we went into the culvert section of the cave. The climb down was fun and all four of the kids made it down without batting an eye. Once at

the bottom what can I say there is just massive gapping borehole! Not many pretties to see but lots of wide open spaces. We spent 4 ½ to 5 hours in the cave and got good and wet, cold and tired.

As is tradition we went to the Mexican restaurant to eat. Yum Yum Yum!!! On the way back to the campground from dinner we decided to stop at Haines Cave. This is one of my favorites. I love the ancient planks that straddle 30 foot drops. It is really fun to take people there that have never been there before and see their reaction. We made the loop which took about an hour and then headed the rest of the way to the campground.

Back at the campground we had more arrivals Joe and Wendy Reeves and their sons Wessey and Joey. Todd and Jason were bushed from such a long day and just passed out. Steven was up pretty late until I drugged him with some Benadryl to stop the itching. Sean and I sat up talking for a good long while before going to bed.

The next morning we went back to Piercys Mill to show everyone else around. The cave itself has a beautiful entrance that blows lots of cool refreshing air. Once inside it is like walking on a sandy beach with water every once in a while. There is not much of interest to see. After a while the water becomes more frequent and harder to avoid. I was doing so well, I had a pair of water boots that come to just below the knee on. I made it most of the way in and I was attempting to traverse a ledge and stay dry above a very deep pool of water when a slid down the side and fell in up to my upper thigh.

So naturally for the rest of the trip I simply ignored the water. Wendy ended up turning back with Wessey about half way due to her knee. The rest of us stayed in the cave for about another half an hour before heading out. Once outside there was no getting anyone else to budge. Wessey and Joey were tired and cold and

Todd and Jason decided that they were going to head home.

The rest of us headed back to the campground and made a huge hamburger dinner. It definitely hit the spot after a long day in the cave. We were up too late again and then off to Frog Hollow in the morning. The area where Frog Hollow is was beautiful. Lots of wild flowers in bloom and sink holes and depressions everywhere. After an endless walk we finally made it to the cave.

Frog Hollow was a lot of fun and the kids really enjoyed it but at this point I think that Joe's kids were starting to think that all caves have water in them. I very much enjoyed the way the rocks were cut. It also had a very cool perfect mud crawl in the upper room that was entertaining. On the way back from Frog Hollow we took Joe and family to Haines. They also liked the planks and the history of the cave.

This night we made a giant pot of spaghetti. Well, we had two additions to our dinner come strolling out of the woods. A tiny girl cat, the cutest thing you have ever seen and her brother who was missing his tail. Our kids got attached to them in a hurry and we decided that if they were still there the next day that we would take them home with us. Boy was that exciting.

The next day we went hiking and to see some waterfalls. That evening when we returned the cats were back so Sean went to the store to get a cage and some food for them. We coaxed both cats over to us and we made the decision to catch the girl cat first since she was more skiddish. Well, it was a botched attempt, she clawed at the cage, we didn't have a good enough hold on her and dropped her and she ran off scared out of her mind. The boy cat that is much dumber than she just returned immediately for the food. He was very easy to catch. Sean had bought a soft cage for him and once we got him in it we left him outside so that he would attract his sister. Next thing you know I look over and here is this cat

rolling away in the cage. The female cat was harder to catch. We had to put the boy cat on a string to entice the female cat to come out. We finally caught her about 4am. The next morning we all headed our separate ways, us with 2 new family members.

We had an awesome very enjoyable but somewhat lax weekend. All in all a good introduction back into caving since we haven't done it in a while.

Fall TAG Cave-In

By Terry McClanathan

Hytop Drop, TN - Oct. 8th - Big open air 109' pit, interior 98' pit, toured about 800 feet of passage with interconnected domes - me, Maury Benamy (GA), Brian Killingbeck and Tabby Cavendish (TN), Jerry Reeves (AL)

Canyon Cave, TN - Oct 8th - 330' long cave near Hytop Drop. Brian and Tabby pushed a tight crawl into virgin territory. Brian estimated 500-600 feet while Tabby thought it might be closer to 1000' - Brian, Tabby, me

Starline Pit, Jackson County AL - Brian, Tabby, me - Nice big open air 91 footer with about 400' of pretty decent cave at the bottom

Mountain Cove Cave aka Ulla Cave - A major cave which has been closed for a few decades and was recently acquired through a lease option by the SCC. A few hundred feet of Maze crawling near the entrance, then big stream / breakdown borehole with big rooms. Upper level room near the back was heavily decorated. There were multiple trips and at least three other groups were in the cave with me.



CAVIN CALENDAR

OCTOBER 10TH - NOVEMBER 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 10 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 11 COLUMBUS DAY Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 12	Oct 13  Meeting 7pm	Oct 14	Oct 15 Youth Restoration Camp	Oct 16 Youth Restoration Camp Take Youth Caving 10am Bridge Day
Oct 17 Youth Restoration Camp	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22 NY Caving Trip-see Jerry	Oct 23 NY Caving Trip
Oct 24 NY Caving Trip	Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30
Oct 31  HALLOWEEN	Nov 1	Nov 2 Election Day	Nov 3	Nov 4	Nov 5	Nov 6
Nov 7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10  Meeting 7pm	Nov 11  VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12	Nov 13 SADIE HAWKINS DAY Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20 Gate Baker Quarry / Carols Crack Cave

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Christal & Bob in Stillhouse (by John DiCarlo)

1- NEW CAVER

2- GREENBRIER TRIP

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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BOB BENNETT, EDITOR

464 HUCKLEBERRY DR

GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344

304-579-4304

gimpycaver@comcast.net



TO:

