

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



SCHERR CRYSTAL CAVE  
GRANT CO, MN

VOL. #25

ISS. #9

SEP

2010

#103



(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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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Bennett in Scherr Crystal Cave showing the crystal bushes just inside the small opening in the wall that leads to the rest of the cave..

\*\*\*\* 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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# CAVING EVENTS

## 2010

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

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each monthly meeting and sent to the  
organization of choice. The money SHOULD  
NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of August ----- **\$37.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ---- **\$4839.00**

**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)

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS



## MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Twila Bracken, Bill Jones, Art Hanson Sr,  
Ann Muldoon

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

**GROTON NEWS & TRIPS**

### **The Legend of Scherr Crystal Cave, Grant Co, WV** By Bob Bennett

*January 26, 2010:*

The whole thing started back on January 26, 2010 when I received a phone call at work from Aaron Wentz. Aaron is a Transportation Engineering Technologist/Geologist, Geotechnical Unit-In-house Design, WVDOT-Engineering Division. He is in charge of Corridor H. He remembered that I had a crew that went into a 100' pit that opened up in Martinsburg back in 2003. We mapped the pit for the WVDOT and from the map & our observations they were able to determine what to do and how to fill the pit. He was hoping that I could get a crew together that wouldn't mind traveling to Scherr, WV to check out a pit that was uncovered by the road crew that was constructing Corridor H around Scherr.

I then sent out an email to 9 people asking for volunteers to check out the hole/pit. The volunteers had to know how to survey & be vertically competent.

*January 27, 2010:*

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I called Aaron voicing my concerns about whether the entrance was stable, the upcoming snowstorm, & whether it was a possibility to survey the pit on a Saturday.

*January 28, 2010:*



Aaron called again on Jan 28, 2010 then sent me 3 pictures of the opening by email. There were a lot of large loose rocks all around the entrance hole. Of course this would make it too dangerous to enter. He said that he would have the road crew work on the entrance to stabilize it and make it safer for us to enter.

Aaron was working on getting us permission from Charleston to go into & survey the pit.

The biggest problem wasn't getting permission. The problem was getting a crew of 5 to 8 people who were free to travel to Scherr. The people must be vertically competent and know how to survey. The emails that I sent out soon ballooned to 10 then 14 people.

*February 11, 2010:*

Finally on Feb 11, 2010 we had permission to enter the cave. Aaron also sent me 3 more photos of the entrance.



Of course the weather wasn't cooperating either. As you know we had 30+" of snow & a few days later we had another 15".

I contacted George Dasher about including the pit in the upcoming **"Caves of Grant Co."** book

*February 15, 2010:*

My contact at the site was Kevin McDonald, the State Project Supervisor. I voiced my concerns about the entrance looking unsafe in the pictures.

He worked with the contractor to clear the snow and stabilize the entrance. He said that we now would be able to get a vehicle within 15' of the entrance. Great! This would allow us something to rig to since there was nothing within 150' of the entrance.

Kevin then sent me the approximate coordinates of the entrance so I could locate the area on a map.

Finally the plans were complete. We were to arrive in Scherr by 9:30 am on Sat, Feb 20, 2010.

Those who were able to help out were: Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Terry McClanathan, Danny Cumbo, Kurt Waldron, Bob Denton, a geologist, and myself.

*February 17, 2010:*

I then emailed Kevin with the 2 most probable dates: Saturday, February 20 & Saturday, February 27.

Kevin gave the go-ahead for February 20, 2010 since the loose rocks and snow had already been cleared. I also received a google map with the approximate coordinates of the cave located on it. I sent this out to the group of volunteers. During all this time there were emails flying around talking about the cave. Many things were discussed such as how big it will be, the geology of the area, and of course names. Some of the suggestions were: 'Hearsay Hole', 'Conjecture Cave', 'Corridor H Pit', and even a goofy name like 'Bennetts Complex'. Of course we had to make it simple & original.

All this time George Dasher was on an emotional roller coaster worrying with the **"Grant Co Bulletin"** & **"On Station II"**. One of his concerns was the naming of the cave. He had the bulletin completed through the "P's". Of course this would leave out the great names that we had suggested since all of them started with letters coming before "P" in the alphabet. We then had to settle on a more common name like Scherr Cave.

We also learned of another pit that was quarried away when the construction crew lowered the road bed. According to road workers it was 75 to 100 feet deep.

*February 20, 2010:*

The weather was cold and of course there was lots of snow on the ground. We were already told that we needed 4x4's to get to the cave site.

We met up at the grocery store in Scherr, WV. Kevin met us there and we traveled to one of the mobile contractors offices near the cave site. Here we were able to get out of the cold to gear up. We then traveled to the east side of Walker Ridge (which is just west of New Creek Mountain) about 2.5 miles north of Scherr, and about 0.4 miles east of State Route 93.

We were able to drive right up to the entrance. But something was different! It looked nothing like the photos that were sent to us.



According to Kevin when the construction crew was clearing the loose and fractured rocks they removed about 20' of overburden. So now instead of rappelling down a shaft we were rappelling right through the top of the entrance room.

We were all anxious to get into the cave. After all it was virgin and it was COLD!!!!



We rigged the rope to the hitch on the back of my Ranger and used a rope pad on the edge of the hole. Chris was first to rappel. Each person followed and I was the last to rappel in.



The arrowhead-shaped entrance is about 5' wide and 9' long and immediately drops about 30 feet to the floor of the Entrance Room. The room is about 20 feet x 20 feet and is about 18 feet high and lowers to about 10 feet high to the back of the room. There is a very large flowstone mound that cascades down from near the ceiling just to the right of a slot. The rest of the cave is through the slot.

The slot in the floor drops about 10 feet to a larger room. A hand line is helpful to get down the slope & 6 foot drop. There is a lot of breakdown and rubble lying in the slot. Most of the rubble probably came from the entrance area when the entrance was opened up and later stabilized.





The second room is about 20 feet long, 30 feet wide and 20 feet high. The one side of the room is much higher than the low side. There is a small natural bridge in the low side of the room that you have to go under to reach the higher side of the room. About 10' up on the right wall is a small body-sized hole that leads to the rest of the cave. There is also an opening high up on the same wall that opened up to the rest of the cave.

The climb up the wall was fairly easy because there was lots of gnarly cave coral to hold on to as you climb.



Once you squeeze through the body-sized hole you were in a different world. There were small white crystal 'bushes' everywhere! It was amazing that you could get through the hole without breaking them! Of course Nikki and I started taking pictures right away while the rest explored on through the cave.



As we moved on there was a small shelf on the left side of the passage that contained many gypsum curls. The third room was about 20' wide by 20' high and 20' long. The passage continued to another room 25' high 20' wide and 10' long. Up high on the left wall was also an opening that opened up into the next room.

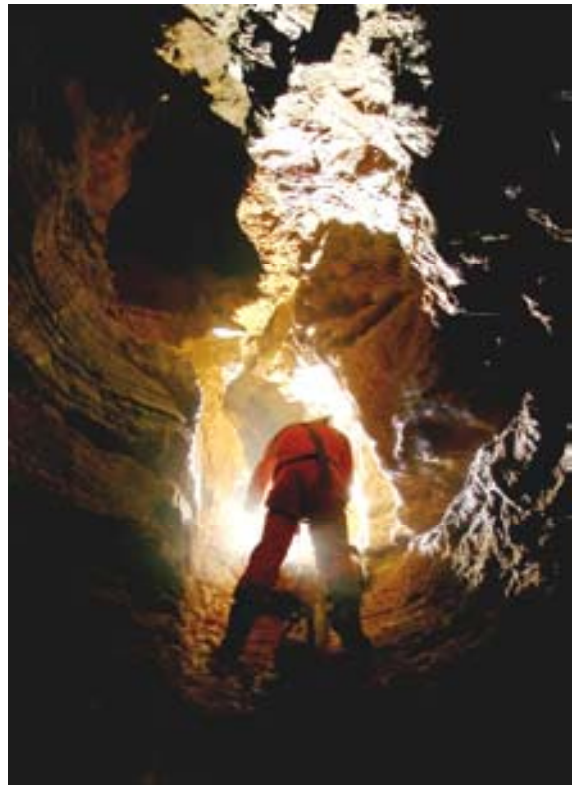
The next room was 15' high 15' wide and 10' long. Up to this point (except for the crystals) there were some formations but nothing to let us know what was in store for us as we went on. The walls also contain popcorn and some of the

minerals had colored the popcorn an array of different colors.



From this point on the passage started trending upward. Also the formations became a lot more plentiful! There were lots of soda straws, stalactites, several shaped like carrots, bacon, flowstone, cave coral, columns, stalagmites, etc, etc. Several of the soda straws were 12-18 inches in length. The unique thing about the formations was the fact that there were pure white formations, gray, blue, black, brown, orange, several shades of red and rust colors, and yellow. Not only were the formations colorful but the limestone was too. Of course this kept Nikki & I busy while the rest explored and started the survey back out.

There is a small crack in the floor on the left side of the passage. This is a tight hole that looks to go down about 15 feet. Once you go into the hole, you can see that the floor of the passage above is only about 8 inches thick. There is a high passage to access the bottom, or you can just continue down the main crack into the largest part of the room. The room has a sloping wall on the left with lots of loose breakdown and dirt. At the bottom there is a dry dirt covered floor with very textured crumbly walls. On the far side of the room (heading southeast) back on top of the loose breakdown, there is a ledge with a short tight breakdown passage leading back in the direction of the entrance. It eventually pinches out. The depth of this room is 39 feet below the entrance.



Near a 5' climb-up is a small hole on the left. After sliding through this hole, being careful to mind the loose rocks all above, you find yourself sitting on a small ledge at the top of a 22-foot pit. The pit is not free hang but a very steep angled wall that requires vertical gear to safely negotiate to the bottom. The walls and floor are roughly textured. The entire time we were down there, there was water dripping from the ceiling and walls. The pit bells out toward the bottom with a small passage disappearing into a very narrow drain in the far wall of the pit (the northwest side). The depth of this pit is 41 feet below the entrance.

Back in the main passage after about 25 feet you come to another heavily decorated area with a very nice column in the middle of the passage. There is flowstone, bacon, soda straws, and stalactites. Most of the formations are to the right-higher side with the shape of the passage conforming to the dip of the bedrock. The passage is about 10 feet high near this point.





After another 10 feet the passage starts to quickly trend upward with the ceiling height about 3 feet. There are a lot of bacon formations in this area with lots of flowstone. Passage shape flattens out here but heads into very thin beds. Lots of slabs occur in this area. The passage pinches out in the thin beds. At this point the cave is 8 feet above the entrance.



Once Nikki and I had our fill of pictures we also joined in the surveying. I don't know about Nikki but I took nearly 150 pictures and almost all of them turned out pretty good.



Survey team one consisted of Terry, Kurt, & Chris and team 2 consisted of Nikki, Danny, & myself. We continued to survey back toward the entrance.



Once back at the Entrance Room Danny Climbed first and I climbed next. Then came Kurt, Chris, Nikki, & Terry. Boy it was getting colder. The temperature probably rose to the lower 30's while we were in the cave but just as soon as the sun went behind the ridge it dropped like a rock. We went into the cave approximately 11:00 am and the last one was out by 4:30 pm.



Once out we derigged and headed for the site office. Here I downloaded my pictures onto the office computer before leaving.

The total of the survey amounted to 408' including splay shots in the entrance room. The total depth of the cave is 49' with the upper end of the cave 8 feet higher than the entrance. Team one total footage was 182.6' in 10 stations (this included several splay shots in the Entrance Room) and team two total footage was 225.2' in 14 stations.

The cave has developed along the geological strike, from southwest to northeast, with its entrance near its southwestern end and the lowest point some what in the middle.

The whole cave contains many formations, and several areas are very heavily decorated with just about every type of speleothem. You have to be especially careful as you travel through the cave in these areas.

What can I say! We were all blown away by what we saw in the small cave. The cave was so decorated and colorful that it was next to impossible not to take a good picture. Yes we have all seen prettier caves. Yes we all have seen virgin cave. But to be able to get into something that is so pretty that is going to be sealed speaks for itself!

*February 21, 2010:*

The very next day I was sending out some of the photos that I took in the cave.

This is not the end of the story though. Once I downloaded my pictures onto the office computer it seems that CD's of my pics made the rounds in the area from Keyser to Petersburg. Also when I sent the link to my web page containing about 80 pictures of the cave to several of the WVDOT engineers the link soon made the rounds throughout the state. I started receiving emails (and phone calls) from newspaper reporters, property landowners near Scherr, cavers as far away as Indiana, VA, etc wanting to know about the cave.

Of course I was more than glad to get the notoriety because I was going to try to use the leverage to maybe get the cave gated! It seemed to work for a while.

Terry called me and asked to change the name of the cave from Scherr Cave to Scherr Crystal Cave! I thought it was a great idea. The name kinda gives you the idea that the cave was something extra special!

*February 24, 2010:*

I started having conversations with Aaron, Kevin, & a 3<sup>rd</sup> WVDOT geologist about the possibility of gating the cave.

Terry McClanathan finished the map and that night I finally got my pictures up on my website.

Arnold Parrish, a geologist with the WVDOH contacted me about getting permission to send my photos to *“Wonderful WV”* magazine.

*February 25, 2010:*

Chris Coates and I wrote up a description of the cave to give to George Dasher for the inclusion in the *“Grant Co Bulletin”*.

Big email discussions between Bob Denton & George Dasher soon followed about the geology of the cave and the area.

*February 24, 2010:*

I sent the Scherr Crystal Cave description to George. He critiqued it and included it in the bulletin along with the map.

*March 5, 2010:*

Tom Hencke contacted me about doing an article in *“Grant Co Press”*. I sent him a few photos and answered his questions about the cave and the people who surveyed it.

*March 8, 2010:*

The adjoining landowner contacted me about cave. He owned the property that the majority of the cave runs under. He also previously owned the land where the ‘new’ road was cutting through. I tried to say as little to him as possible so he wouldn’t be able to use anything that I said to get the cave closed.

*March 9, 2010:*

I was contacted by Joe Flanagan to do an article in *“Moorefield Examiner”*. Of course I had to answer his questions about the cave and who we were and why we do the things we do,

Aaron Wentz then sent me an overlay of the cave & the Plan Sheet for Corridor H. He had the cave over-laid on top of the plan sheet using the north arrow. He used the map legend and the legend of the overlay to orient the passage.

The adjoining landowner then started applying pressure to get the cave closed

*March 10-2010:*

I sent an email letter to Aaron, Kevin, & Arnold, the 3 WVDOH geologists that I had been contact with, in one last ditch effort to get the cave gated. I mad suggestions as to how the cave could be gated, told them we had experienced people who gate caves, and brought up the WV cave laws and sportsman’s laws.

I then received a call from one of the geologists telling me that there were several people in Charleston who were excited about what I had said and were working to get the cave gated. I then received word from Craig Hindman offering his services in gating the cave.

*March 11, 2010:*

The article about Scherr Crystal Cave ran in the *“Grant Co Press”*. I was a pretty decent article including several photos.

*March 22, 2010:*

Billy Wolfe contacted me about doing a cover story about the cave in the *“Charleston Daily Mail”*. Again I answered questions, furnished photos, etc.

The WVDOT teter-tottered first from closing the cave to gating it. Then the adjoining landowner put pressure on the WVDOT to close the cave. Of course I tried to use the WV Cave Laws and having someone who would gate the cave for them. The sentiment then started to swing back the other way. But alas the powers-to-be in Charleston decided to close the cave!

*March 24, 2010:*

I received word that Charleston had decided to close the cave! **What a bummer!!!!!!**

This was also the same day that the *“Moorefield Examiner”* ran their article on the cave.

*March 26, 2010:*

The *“Charleston Daily Mail”* ran their article about the cave. I felt that this article was pretty



1<sup>st</sup> class. It included photos and of course it was front page news!

*April 9, 2010:*

I sent an article to George Dasher for the “*WV Caver*”.

April 30, 2010 I received official word that the cave was indeed closed!

I am truly grateful to the WVDOT for allowing us the privilege of going into the cave. What we thought would be a quick in & out survey turned out to be a great experience. Hopefully some day someone will be allowed to reopen the cave for scientific study. Even though we did not see any ‘critters’, I am sure that a trained eye would have found something worthwhile.

*May 2, 2010:*

Terry McClanathan and I stopped by the Scherr Crystal cave site to survey the damage. **Indeed the cave is closed!!!!** The cave opening was covered with several large boulders and back-filled.



*Mar 31, 2010:*

George Dasher, Bob Denton, & Nick Schaar made the trip to the cave site to see the geology first hand.

The Scherr Crystal Cave article finally appeared in the August issue of the “*WV Caver*”.

The story of Scherr Crystal Cave was filled with lots of highs and some lows. It became so well-known that it became front page news on a couple of newspapers. The cave was talked about in blogs, on Face Book, and everyday ‘cave’ talk. I received emails and phone calls from people who were located as far away as Indiana and Florida. Most people wanted to know what was going to be done to save the cave. I even received a phone call from the previous property owner of the cave location. CD’s of the pictures that I took were passed around from Keyser to Petersburg. The address of my website containing the photos that I took also made the rounds. People constantly remarked about the amount of formations and the colors.

I guess that I can be thankful that I was able to be a part of and live the life and legend of Scherr Crystal Cave!!!!

Bob Bennett  
NSS21847

## GEOLOGY

The geology of Scherr Crystal Cave is not so straight forward as previously thought. George Dasher & Bob Denton had many emails passed back and forth discussing what was happening and what possibly happened in the past. Here are some quotes from one of Bob Denton’s emails after he was able to see the geology 1<sup>st</sup> hand. Of course most of the rock had been covered up with 40+ inches of snow and had also been blasted a lot.

Here is what Bob had to say, “*I had to leave the site about noon, but I was able to take a good long look at the surface exposures, fractures, and some other very intriguing stuff exposed in the current road cut. The geology is not as straightforward as we all thought it would be. Luckily, I have the boring logs from the DOH engineering folks that show the lithology they encountered. However, I’m going to have to call Kevin to get the key to the log symbols, as their*

*engineering firm used non-standard symbology for some of the rock types.*

*I'll write up a detailed analysis of the geology as soon as I talk to Kevin.*

*But here's my initial summary:*

*The cave's entrance pit looks like it's developed along a strike-controlled fracture, roughly perpendicular to the bedding plane. There is a broad, soil-bottomed and forested closed depression (sinkhole?) developed at the head of the swale to the north of the cave, just off the edge of the ROW; with a smaller, closed depression just to its north.*

*Interestingly, if you draw a line from the closed depressions through the cave entrance, and walk across the highway grade, there are areas in the cut where the base drillers and graders intercepted both interstitial clays, speleothems, and highly weathered rock. Apparently the drillers also encountered voids in this area. One of the coolest things I saw was a "blob" of what looked like yellowish-brown translucent travertine that the grader literally bladed off. The mass of travertine was about 4-feet by 6-feet, and looked almost like the "top" of a formation! You could actually see the laminations in parts of it.*

*There were also lots of vugs with both calcite and quartz crystals in them.*

*The opposite face of the road cut but across from the cave also showed a linear, strike-oriented fracture on line with the cave entrance and the sinkholes up on the hill. More than likely it's the same fracture "set", but I'm not ready to say it's the exact same fracture the cave is in.*

*What was really odd was the lithology of the bedrock. I didn't see anything that even looked vaguely like the Oriskany sandstone, except perhaps at the extreme western end of the road cut. Unfortunately it was masked by a lot of shot rock. Closer to the cave entrance, the rock*

*looked much more like a calcareous shale, with much of it approaching a slaty cleavage. It reminded me of the limey shale/slate at the base of the Martinsburg Formation. The cave seemed to be developed in limestone, but it didn't look anything like the "typical" Helderberg. It was an unfossiliferous, aphanitic (microcrystalline) limestone with lots of interbedded shale and siltstone. Very odd, and very un-Helderbergish. There were clearly ledges of limestone exposed in the base of the cut; but much of the rock had shaley/slaty cleavage, with thin laminations varying from 0.5 to 2.0 inches in thickness. The limestone ledges were massive, and the graders couldn't rip them easily, so they stuck out in low relief.*

*It's notable that the cave's entrance is near the crest of the hill, which drops very steeply towards the east. There are two intermittent streams that run along the base of the ridge in the valley to the east, and the cave's entrance seems to be near the watershed divide between the branch that runs north, and the one that runs south. Technically, the cave is closer to these streams than it is to the Elk Run. The groundwater gradient would be much steeper to the east, than to the west, even though the bedrock dips at about 20 to 30 degrees towards the west.*

*I'm really interested to see the cave map. It'll be a great help in understanding what's going on."*



*Bedding just above the cave entrance.*



## ***“A HISTORY OF SCHERR CRYSTAL CAVE IN PHOTOS”***



ORIGINAL ENTRANCE (Road Crew)



ENTRANCE AFTER 20' OF OVERBURDEN WAS REMOVED (BB)



RIGGING PIT (BB)



SPOT WHERE 75-100 FOOT PIT WAS QUARRIED AWAY (BB)



CHRIS COATES RAPPELLING (BB)



BOB DENTON TALKING TO KEVIN McDONALD (BB)





NIKKI FOX RAPPELLING (BB)



KURT WALDRUN RAPPELLING (BB)



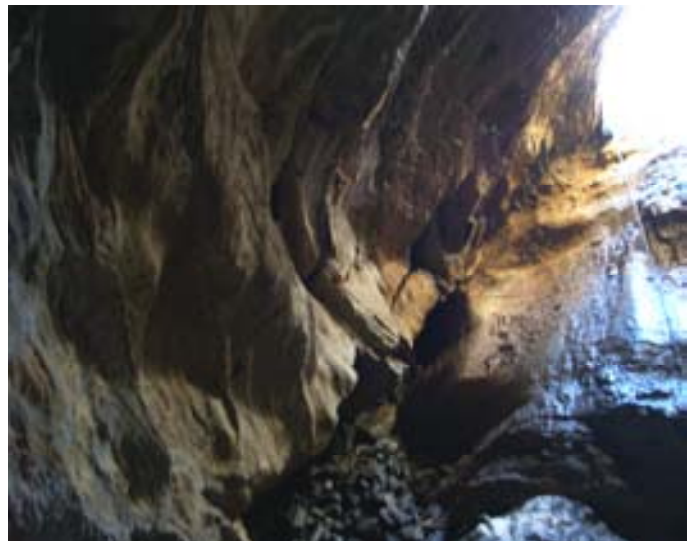
TERRY McCLANATHAN PREPARING TO RAPPEL



DANNY CUMBO RAPPELLING



ENTRANCE ROOM (BB)



SCALLOPING IN WALL NEXT TO ENTRANCE (BB)



BOB CLIMBING (NIKKI)



SLOT TO REST OF CAVE (NIKKI)



TERRY ON LEDGE (NIKKI)



NIKKI GOING THROUGH HOLE (BB)





CRYSTAL BUSHES (BB)



BOB ADMIRING BUSHES (NIKKI)



FORMALTONS (NIKKI)



FORMATIONS (BB)



CRYSTAL BUSHES (NIKKI)





BOB ADMIRING PRETTIES (NIKKI)



TERRY RAPPELLING 22' PIT (NIKKI)



MORE PRETTIES (BB)





CHRIS SURVEYING (NIKKI)



BOB ADMIRING MORE PRETTIES) (NIKKI)



DANNY SURVEYING (BB)



CURT SURVEYING (BB)





CURT CLIMBING OUT (BB)



NIKKI POSING AFTER CLIMBING (BB)



TERRY LOOKING AT THE GRAVE OF SCHERR CRYSTAL CAVE



LIMESTONE BEDDING ABOVE ENTRANCE (BB)



POPCORN WALL (BB)



ENTRANCE ROOM FORMATIONS (NIKKI)



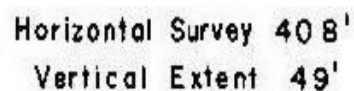


BOB & TERRY IN ENTRANCE ROOM (NIKKI)





Grant County, W. Va.



Instruments: Bob Bennett  
Chris Coates  
Danny Cumbo  
Nikki Fox  
Kurt Waldron

Sketch/Book: Nikki Fox  
Terry McClanathan

Cartography: McClanathan



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# CAVING CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 5TH - OCTOBER 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sep 5</b> <b>OTR</b>	<b>Sep 6</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>OTR</b>	<b>Sep 7</b>	<b>Sep 8</b>  <b>MEETING 7PM</b>	<b>Sep 9</b>	<b>Sep 10</b>	<b>Sep 11</b> <b>FALL BASH</b> <b>PATRIOTS DAY</b>
<b>Sep 12</b> <b>Grand Parent's Day</b>	<b>Sep 13</b>	<b>Sep 14</b>	<b>Sep 15</b> <b>Karst Conference</b>	<b>Sep 16</b> <b>Karst Conference</b>	<b>Sep 17</b> <b>Karst Conference</b>	<b>Sep 18</b>
<b>Sep 19</b>	<b>Sep 20</b>	<b>Sep 21</b>	<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>Sep 23</b>  <b>EQUINOX</b>	<b>Sep 24</b>	<b>Sep 25</b>
<b>Sep 26</b>	<b>Sep 27</b>	<b>Sep 28</b>	<b>Sep 29</b>	<b>Sep 30</b>	<b>Oct 1</b> <b>FALL VAR/MAR</b> <b>FRIAR HOLE CAVE PRESERVE</b>	<b>Oct 2</b> <b>FALL VAR/MAR</b>
<b>Oct 3</b> <b>FALL VAR/MAR</b>	<b>Oct 4</b>	<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Oct 7</b>	<b>Oct 8</b> <b>Fall TAG Cave-In</b> <b>Lookout Mt, TN</b>	<b>Oct 9</b> <b>Fall TAG Cave-In</b>
<b>Oct 10</b> <b>Fall TAG Cave-In</b>	<b>Oct 11</b> <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> <b>Fall TAG Cave-In</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<b>Oct 13</b>  <b>Meeting 7pm</b>	<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Oct 15</b> <b>Youth Restoration Camp</b>	<b>Oct 16</b> <b>Youth Restoration Camp</b> <b>Take Youth Caving 10am</b> <b>Bridge Day</b>

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



SCHERR CRYSTAL CAVE (NIKKI)

## 1- THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF SCHERR CRYSTAL CAVE



### DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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