

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**KAI IN WHITINGS NECK**

**VOL. #26**

**ISS. #8**

**AUG**

**2011**

**#95**



**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00**  
**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR**  
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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Bob  
 Bennett in Whitings Neck Cave, Berkeley Co, WV.

\*\*\*\* 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  
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**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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**GROTTTO**.

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.

**TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS**

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**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

## 2011

AUG 1 ----- OTR Pre-Registration Deadline  
AUG 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
AUG 12-14 --- Indiana Cave Capers – Camp Rivervale,  
Mitchell, IN  
AUG 12-14 --- WVACS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – WVACS Field  
Station  
AUG 13 ----- Adam Stephen Dig – 9am  
AUG 20 ----- Norman Cave – see Bob  
AUG 20 ----- Breathing Cave – see Eric Berge  
AUG 27 ----- Paxtons Cave – see Bob  
SEP 1-5 ----- **OTR!!!!**  
SEP 3 ----- Doo Dah Parade – 10am  
SEP 3 ----- Polyester Power Hour  
SEP 5 ----- **LABOR DAY**  
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT'S DAY  
SEP 11 ----- GRAND PARENT'S DAY  
SEP 12-14 ---- Growing Communities on Karst  
SEP 14 ----- TSG meeting - 7pm  
SEP 23 ----- **AUTUMNAL EQUINOX**  
SEP 24 ----- Annual Fall Bash – Fisher's Landing  
OCT 6-10 ---- Fall TAG Cave-In  
OCT 10 ----- COLUMBUS DAY  
OCT 12 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm – Annual Auction  
Oct 14-16 ---- Fall VAR – RASS Field Station  
OCT 15 ----- Bridge Day  
OCT 31 ----- All Hallow Eve (HALLOWEEN)  
NOV 6 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
NOV 8 ----- Election Day  
NOV 9 ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm – Nominations  
NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY  
NOV 12 ----- Sadie Hawkin's Day  
NOV 24 ----- **THANKSGIVING DAY**  
NOV 25 ----- BLACK FRIDAY  
DEC 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections  
DEC 17 ----- Annual TSG Xmas Celebration – 6pm  
DEC 18 ----- Xmas caving  
DEC 22 ----- **WINTER SOLSTICE**  
DEC 24 ----- **XMAS EVE**  
DEC 25 ----- **XMAS DAY**  
DEC 31 ----- **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

## 2012

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

\*\*\*\*\* CAVE BUCKS \*\*\*\*\*

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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 ----- **\$35.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: --- **\$5039.00**

**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>  
WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>  
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 AUGUST

Matthew Amundson, Jerry Bowen, Mary Lynn Collis, John DiCarlo, Linda Kling, Alan Knowlton, JJ pate, Jesse Martin Thompson, Jordan Walthers

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### Editorial letter for the DDD...

I read John Di Carol's article on Sharps Cave in the July 2011 Dead-Dog Dispatch. This is the article where he describes all the mud sculptures he saw in the cave. These sculptures were at the J18 Junction, which is where you climb down to the Sharps Waterfall.

In 1982, while we were mapping the cave, we encountered an incredible large mud sculpture of a medieval castle at the Blackfish Junction. Blackfish is located several hundred yards west of J18, and is where you climb back down to the cave's two western streams.

I cannot describe this castle and do it justice. It was very large and built along the crest of a tall mud ridge. There were multiple battlements, many different walls (of all sizes), and everything was incredibly detailed. Nothing I have ever seen in a cave or at the beach has even come close to this sculpture in size or detail. It was breathtaking.

Unfortunately, the crest of the mud ridge was also not only the main place you had to walk, it was the only place you could walk without the risk of falling. The castle's main battlement had some serious exposure in front of it. To try to walk around the castle was to fall--and possibly really hurt yourself.

We tried not to damage the castle as we walked through it, but we did damage--you just could not walk around the thing without risk of dying. Other parties also walked through it, and we watched as it gradually was destroyed over the next six months or so. The builders did a great job constructing the castle, but their location seriously sucked.

I've often thought about this castle over the years, and I really wish the builders had made the thing at J18, where it could have survived, and not at Blackfish, where there was no choice but to destroy it. It was just a fantastic sculpture!

george dasher

# GROTTO NEWS

## Minutes to the July Meeting 7/13/11

John called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

### Old Business:

The old broken bit used in the Adam Stephen dig cannot be fixed.

John talked about the bones found at the Adam Stephen dig. According to Fred Grady they are horse bones & teeth.

Spring VAR 2012 – Judy & JC are still looking for a good spot.

There were 40 people at the Summer Picnic held at Crystal Grottoes.

Don't forget OTR is held the first weekend in September.

### New Business:

Bob contacted JC about the 2011 Fall Bash. It will be held on Sat, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

We did it! We have finally went over the \$5,000 total for Cave Bucks donations.

We had \$35.00 for this month's Cave Bucks. It will again be sent to the WVCC.

The subject of a TSG Grotto Lifetime membership was brought up. We had several requests from members about a Lifetime Membership.

After much discussion it was decided to somewhat pattern it after the NSS Lifetime Membership. The end result was:

A TSG Lifetime Membership is \$200 total. For those who possibly cannot pay the full \$200 all at once we have created a TSG Sustaining Membership. The fee will be \$50 per year until the \$200 total is satisfied.

I will add here that Mike Eppley is the first Lifetime member to pay the \$200 fee. I will also have to add that we actually had 2 Lifetime Members in the past. Because of their many contributions to caving in their lifetimes, Hugh & Mellie Stabler were awarded Lifetime Memberships in 1994.

The Grotto agreed to reimburse Brent Jefferson for up to \$50 for repairs on the Baker Quarry Gate.

According to some reports, some bats are surviving WNS & are reproducing.

Trips:

Adam Stephen dig – 8/13/11 9am to 4pm

Crystal Grottoes dig – 7/23/11 starting at 10am.

OTR – Sep 1-5

Porters Cave – Carl Amundson – 7/30/11 – meet at 10am

Norman Cave – Bob Bennett – 8/20/11

Paxtons cave – Bob Bennett – 8/27/11

John adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett

Secretary – Tri-State Grotto

### **Another NSS Fellow of the Society for Tri-State Grotto!!!**

Tri-State would like to congratulate Pat Minnick on his selection as a Fellow of the NSS. Pat has been involved in different aspects of caving for many years and well deserves the recognition! Congratulations Pat!!!!

**Subject:** Grotto Recognition

Dear Grotto Chairperson:

This e-mail is to inform you that the Appalachian Cave Conservancy has recognized your Grotto's substantial and meaningful assistance on the Gilley Cave Gate Project, and to let you and your Grotto know about the present status of the gate and our plans for Gilley cave, and for completion of the remaining gate work, for the remainder of this year.

I have attached a copy of the Gilley Cave Management Plan and a copy of the Motion that has been adopted by ACC recognizing your Grotto's contributions to the project.

The only major work that remains to be done at the cave is the installation of a counter weight on the heavy steel gate door. The exact work date for the actual installation has not been set, and until that is done a member of the Management Committee will have to be present for the opening and closing of the gate. When that work day is scheduled, you will be advised by e-mail.

The Management Committee hopes to have a trip in the near future to survey the bat population in Gilley, to see if there are any signs of WNS in the cave. If your Grotto would like to conduct such a trip you should contact the cave manager and make the necessary arrangements. If more than one grotto wishes to have a survey trip, we will try to coordinate a date for a joint trip with all interested grottos, because (within reason) a more people will result in a more thorough survey.

The Cave Manager is Gary Fielden and he can be contacted by e-mail at [garyfielden@gmail.com](mailto:garyfielden@gmail.com).

Congratulations on your Grotto's selection! We look forward to seeing you at Gilley.

Joel B. Stevenson

For the Management Committee

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## Adam Stephen Dig

### These Old Bones

June 4, 2011

By John P. Di Carlo, Jr. NSS#25744

Martinsburg, WV – Tri-State Grotto dug again in the Adam Stephen House on June 4, 2011.

Russell Linton and I ran electric cords and placed droplights where we needed them. We started out with a good turnout. I climbed down taking the “Wacker” with me. Jerry Downs of Crystal Grottoes Caverns loaned the “Wacker” to us. This saved us the cost of a rental.



The floor was so soft that I could just push the shovel into it, then push it away from me and a hunk of dirt would pop off. I would then pick it up and throw it into a drywall bucket. The guys on top would pull it up, swap it with an empty drywall bucket, and send it back down. And so it went. As they took the full bucket off the line, they passed it back to others and it was carried out. It swapped hands several times before it ended at the cliffside and dumped. I tried to have a bucket filled and ready to go up by the time the crew on top lowered a bucket back down to me.



Russell Linton replaced me at the bottom. As Russell was digging he looked over at the wall and saw something that looked out of place. He pulled it out and found that it was a piece of bone.



At 12:30 we broke for lunch. Keith had a nice spread of food set out for us. Hot dogs with chili, rolls with a meat platter, a platter with the fixings, crackers, chips, cheese puffs, applesauce, grapes, orange slices, strawberries, pineapple, brownies and drinks.

After lunch we walked over to the E. King St house. A few people had not seen it before. This house has a sub-sub-sub basement. Yes, four levels under ground, with stone steps going down three levels. We had dug here in the past. We uncovered some stone steps and two levels.

Back at the Adam Stephen House we returned to our digging. Soon the buckets started flowing up again.



Keith Hammersla took a turn digging and found three more pieces of bone. They were smaller than the bone Russell found in the morning and were all three similar in size. I sent pictures of the four pieces found in the morning and afternoon plus the one found August 15, 2009 to Fred Grady. He wrote back that they were horse teeth and bones that could have been back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Our volunteers were: Damon Edminoten, Chad Boarman, Phil Edmands, Russell Linton, Jack Brawner, Keith Hammersla, Rick Knight and John Di Carlo.

We pulled out 93 buckets of dirt.

We put in 46 hours of volunteered time worth \$920.00.

From: Ryan Boyce

**Subject: New Mineral County Cave**

Don Carns and myself (Ryan Boyce) recently made a reconnaissance trip to the cave-poor Mineral County to check up on some leads, and I am pleased to report that we've found a new, significant cave!

We heard of the cave from a local, who was the original discoverer. According to him, he was hunting in a grown up field one day and almost fell in what was later to be discovered as a 60 foot dome-pit. The local also reports that there is at least one significant room separate from the dome-pit, and that the cave has never been thoroughly explored by anyone (experienced or otherwise), nor has it

been mapped. It is said that inadequate exploration is due to the fact that the size of the cave has made previous spelunkers too fearful to push on, but the truth of this is unknown. It is my guess that a second pit was encountered that they were unable to descend.

Finally, it is reported that at one time they were considering the possibility of making this a show cave.

Most unfortunately, we approached the owner and he will not let us explore it as he believes caving in general is unsafe. We offered to sign waivers, but this was insufficient for him. He will not even let his son in it, who is also interested in exploring the cave. The cave has an open-air roofed structure over top it, is either gated or permanently covered, and also has a horizontal I-beam directly over top the entrance which has allowed locals to descend the pit in the past.

Given the work put into the structure at the entrance, as well as the reports of it being rather large, I would say this is likely a nice cave. You are welcome to try to convince the landowner on your own (who lives in the nearest trailer), but I believe it wouldn't be fruitful. If you do, please keep me updated.

I think the only thing we can do at this point is put this cave in the database so the knowledge of it is not lost and hope that a few decades from now another, less fearful landowner will allow the next generation of cavers in here to explore and map it.

## Try striking out these bats

By DAVE SCHEIBER

FOXSportsFlorida.com Rays Writer

Feb. 12, 2011

The Tampa Bay Rays recently added some feared bats to the roster with the free agent signings of hard-hitting veterans Manny Ramirez and Johnny Damon. But now they'd like to get rid of some even scarier bats that have reported early for spring training.

Thousands of the nocturnal mammals — Brazilian free tail bats, to be exact — have made themselves right at home in the upper reaches of the Charlotte Sports Park, the Grapefruit League base of the Rays.

That's not exactly what the Rays have in mind when it comes to increasing attendance — or beefing up their offense. It seems the bats have been an ongoing problem at the park the past few years, but the current infestation in various nooks of the stadium has caused a problem with droppings throughout the park and an accompanying unpleasant odor, as well as other potential health issues.

That prompted Charlotte County to step up to the plate with a new bat strategy, constructing a custom-built bat tower several hundred yards away to lure the bleacher creatures away. And officials are letting another team take a swing at the mess, Apex Pest Control.

"They're uniquely adapted to live among humans and our structures, and they're beneficial because they eat insects, such as mosquitoes," explained Conner Keller, Apex' business development manager for Florida's West Coast.

Keller, in this case, is the Bat Man. His job is to get the Brazilian free tails, an endangered species, out of the ballpark without harming them. The process involves a two-pronged approach: placing a mesh material into the holes the bats have previously lived in, to prevent them from returning; and installing devices that serve as one-way doors where the active colonies are. The doors are installed after the bats are finished roosting during the day.

"They leave at night and when they come back in the morning, they can't get back

in," Keller said.

There are three or four bat colonies with one or two thousand bats in each, according to Keller. But he expects the work to be completed well before exhibition games begin, so fans can focus on the bats being swung — and the only thing flying overhead will be baseballs.





# CANYON CALENDAR

## AUGUST 7TH - SEPTEMBER 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10  meeting 7pm	Aug 11	Aug 12 Indiana Cave Capers WVACS 50 YEARS	Aug 13 Indiana Cave Capers WVACS 50 Years Adam Stephen dig 9am
Aug 14 Indiana Cave Capers WVACS 50 Years	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20 Breathing Cave - FRG Norman Cave - see Bob
Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27 Paxtons Cave - see Bob
Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1 QTR	Sep 2 QTR	Sep 3 QTR Doo Dah Parade 10am Polyester Power Hour 1pm
Sep 4 QTR	Sep 5 QTR LABOR DAY	Sep 6	Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10
Sep 11 GRAND PARENT'S DAY PATRIOTS DAY	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14  Meeting 7pm	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17
Growing Communities on Karst						

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Norbourn Cemetery Cave

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