

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**CAVE MT CAVE  
PENDLETON CO, WV**

**VOL. #26**

**ISS. #2**

**FEB**

**2011**

**#13**



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

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**FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)**  
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**SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (Non-Voting)**  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY**  
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS or can be SENT TO:

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\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Bob Bennett in Cave Mt Cave, Pendleton Co, WV. Carbide was used for lighting.

\*\*\*\* 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:**

**SECRETARY**

**PROGRAM CHAIR**

**MEMBER at LARGE**

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



**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

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# CAVING EVENTS

## 2011

## 2012

**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 14** ----- **VETERAN'S DAY**  
**FEB 21** ----- **PRESIDENT'S DAY**  
**MAR 9** ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm  
**Mar 12** ----- Adam Stephen dig – 9am  
**MAR 13** ----- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**  
**MAR 17** ----- **ST PATRICK'S DAY**  
**MAR 20** ----- **SPRING EQUINOX**  
**MAR 22** ----- **WORLD WATER DAY**  
**MAR 25** ----- **MD DAY**  
**APR 1** ----- **ALL FOOL'S DAY**  
**APR 13** ----- TSG Grotto meeting – 7pm  
**APR 15** ----- **TAX DAY**  
**APR 22** ----- **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APR 22** ----- **EARTH DAY**  
**APR 24** ----- **EASTER**  
**APR 29** ----- **ARBOR DAY**  
**APR 29 – MAY 1 – SPRING VAR @ Durbin, WV –**  
                     **Sponsored by FRG**  
**MAY 5** ----- **CINCO de MAYO**  
**MAY 5** ----- **DAY OF PRAYER**  
**MAY 7** ----- Adam Stephen day – 9am  
**MAY 8** ----- **MOTHER'S DAY**  
**MAY 11** ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
**MAY 12-15** --- Spring MAR – Shade Camp, PA  
**MAY 21** ----- **ARMED FORCES DAY**  
**MAY 27-30** --- Speleofest, KY  
**MAY 30** ----- **MEMORIAL DAY**  
**JUN 8** ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
**JUN 10-12** --- Bubble weekend  
**JUN 14** ----- **FLAG DAY**  
**JUN 15** ----- NSS Convention Pre-registration Discount  
                     ends  
**JUN 16-20** --- SERA Cave Carnival – Monteagle, TN  
**JUN 19** ----- **FATHER'S DAY**  
**JUN 20** ----- **WV DAY**  
**JUN 21** ----- **SUMMER SOLSTICE**  
**JUN 24-26** --- Indiana Cave Capers  
**JUL 4** ----- **INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**JUL 13** ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
**JUL 16** ----- Annual Grotto Picnic  
**JUL 18-22** ----- NSS Convention, Glenwood Springs,  
                     CO  
**JUL 24** ----- **PARENT'S DAY**  
**JUL 31** ----- **TRA Deadline**  
**AUG 10** ----- TSG meeting – 7pm  
**SEP 1-5** ----- **OTR!!!!**  
**SEP 5** ----- **LABOR DAY**  
**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**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 February ----- **\$28.00**  
**TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$4913.00**  
**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/>

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## MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Daniel Amundson, Paulette Bennett, Erek  
Bennett, Barry Duncan, Vitas  
Eidukevicius, Tanner Haid, Malakai  
Hanson, Russell Linton, Carrie Marcum,  
Barbara Walthers Will Walthers, Tyler  
Wootten, Todd Zimmerman

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*



### **Vigil held for baby found in Wythe Co. cave - WDBJ7 Home**

About 50 came to the memorial  
January 30, 2011 | By Chris Hurst | Reporter

WYTHE CO., Va.:

A community in Wythe County gathered at sunset to remember a baby who tragically died and was found in a cave. The vigil came together quickly on Facebook. Notices started going out yesterday. Tonight they met to honor a newborn at the very place where it was found.

One by one they started file in off the East Lee Highway. Sheriff's deputies gave them a place to gather-- about 50 people came to light candles and remember a baby none of them ever knew.

"I came out yesterday to put my stuff out here at the cave," says Chris Gray. "Before I was able to

get to the other side of the park here, I made up my mind I'd love to have some kind of gathering."

Katie Viars went to high school with Ashley Meadows, the mother accused of putting the newborn in the cave. Pregnant herself, she says the act is unimaginable. "She had a baby shower planned and I bought her baby stuff," she says. "Just knowing that I have a baby girl, she had a baby girl... just feeling the baby kicking and everything how could somebody do that knowing the baby was in there."

Some left flowers, some sang, still others--prayed. Thinking about how long the child had been there before being recovered. "Just knowing that we're standing there at that cave where that baby was in there for two weeks, people driving by not even knowing that baby was in there," says Heather Rankin. "Just to remember the baby," says Viars. "Just to remember that it's not right what happened."

Ashley Meadows' mother, Twila, is also charged with concealment of a body. Both are in jail without bond. Investigators still don't know if the baby was stillborn or put alive in the cave.

## **The OTR 2010 Dress-Up Trip**

By John Di Carlo

This year The Dress-Up Trip went to Stillhouse Cave. A stop was made at Goodwill in Elkins to pick up some things.

When we arrived there were already a lot of cars from other OTR cavers. Comments were made about how we were dressed. I heard one guy say to his buddy, look, you're worried about getting your good things dirty. Look at these guys; they're in their Sunday best!





Bob Bennett started us out by leading us in. Doesn't he look nice? We staged ourselves at different levels then passed the kids down. Up the passage we went. There was a muddy pool we had to cross where most of us got our feet wet. We had to slide down muddy banks and climb others.



We crossed one big room. On the other side we crawled up a passage into another big room. Everywhere we looked we saw bats. We saw Pips and Little Brown bats. There was no sign of WNS.



Jeff told us that the way to tell the Little Brown bats from the Pips is that the Pips look like a comma and the Little Browns hang straight down.



As at all caving events, new friendships were made. Our two youngest cavers became good friends this weekend.



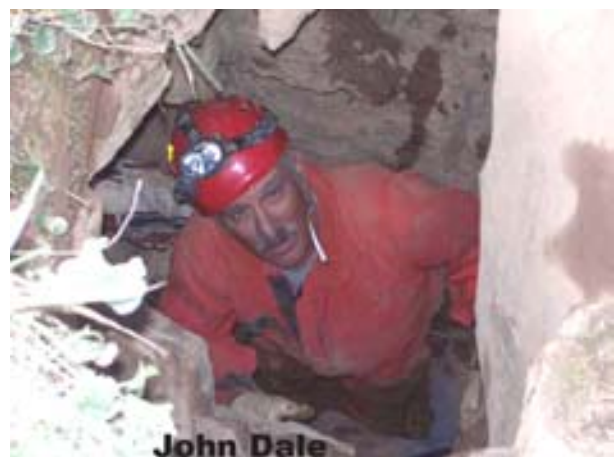
We did get deep enough into the cave that we had trouble finding our way. John Dale and Jessica try to point to the way on.



Trish brought her Daughter Barbara and Barbara's friend Jessica. This was Jessica's first caving trip. I had to get a photo of the three of them.



As people came out of the cave I snapped a few shots of them. Here are Bob Bennett and Crystal Hanson looking up from down in the cave.







John Dale and crystal Hanson had their pictures taken as they came out of Stillhouse Cave. And finally, Trish shows us that she's happy to get dirty again.



## The Dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns Nine Inches Square

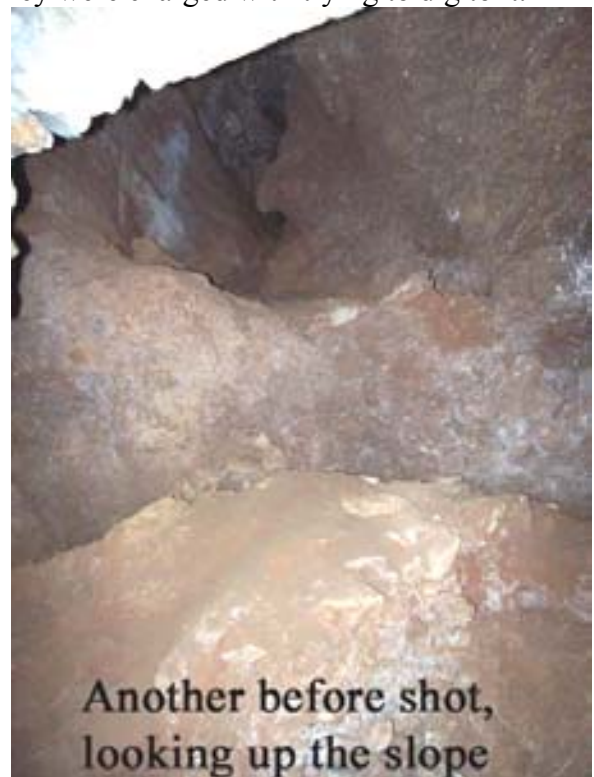
By John Di Carlo

**Boonsboro, MD** – Tri-State Grotto returned on August 14, 2010 to Crystal Grottoes Caverns. They came to dig. And dig they did.

Starting at a new spot, the bottom of the back door passage at the old exit passage, they started digging. Here is a before shot.



Caving up, over then down again is a large room. They were charged with trying to dig to it.





As Jason Rice dug into the dirt bank and pushed the dirt down the slope, others shoveled the loose dirt into a wagon. Each wagon was loaded with three drywall buckets worth of dirt. There were also large rocks in the dirt. These were taken out as well.



As the wagons were filled, two people took them up the ramp to the exit. After popping out into the above world, it was an easy roll to the dumping spot.



Jerry Downs provided tea to drink and for lunch he served pizza.



As they were digging, a few rocks were sent up. Some of them looked finished. The thought was that they were leftovers from when they built the stone walls going out the back door. Jarod came across one that was 9 inches square and about three feet long. Jerry had to back his tractor down and hook on to it. It spun its wheels when it tried to pull the rock up the slope. The gang grabbed the webbing and helped pull the rock out. Jerry kept it aside to use in the future. Later in the day a smaller version of the large rock was found. It barely fit into a wagon and was pulled up by hand.

Several times there were diggers in the passage above. This stopped people from working under them because of the amount of rocks that was falling. After they stopped and came down, the wagons started out the back door again.





100 wagon loads were taken out. That equals 300 drywall buckets. There were 16 volunteers who put in a total of 112 volunteer hours.



The volunteers today were: Jason Rice, Nina Rice, Brandy Rice, Jarod Buchanan, Russell Linton, Donna Linton, John Di Carlo, Bob Bennett, Jeff Marcum, Sean Wootten, Bernie Wootten, Abigail Wootten, Chris Wootten, Jonathan Wootten, Tyler Wootten, Todd Zimmerman, John Payne, and Paulette Bennett.

## Crystal Grottoes Caverns

### January 2011 Dig

By John P. Di Carlo, Jr.

Boonsboro – Tri-State Grotto returned to Crystal Grottoes Caverns January 15, 2011, to continue digging on the Tri-State Grotto passage. Walking into the cave house I found Jerry Downs, the owner, Sonny Floyd, the tour guide, and Zack Floyd.

Zack and I moved the wagons, shovels and buckets down to the dig site. As we waited for others to show up, Sonny showed me two bats and three bullfrogs. The bats were at the same spots in the cave as last year.



After a while we figured that no one else was coming, so we headed down to the dig. Zack and I put the wagon between us and threw clay onto it. Our plan was to fill all three wagons, then take them out, fill them up again, and take them out. And so it went.

Zack said that we should set a goal. We wanted to set a goal we could reach, but also a goal that we would have to work for. We set our goal at 100 buckets. When we broke for lunch we were up to 44 buckets. We felt that we would make our goal.

Before lunch we had cleaned up the clay on the left at the beginning of the Tri-State Grotto passage. Zack found that the rock at the point of the intersection didn't reach the floor when the clay was removed. It was three feet or so before

it sloped down into the floor. We took the floor in the first room of the Tri-State Grotto passage down to where we could fit two wagons side by side. Now we could roll a wagon back to the candlesticks. We were two feet at floor level up the passage beside the candlesticks.

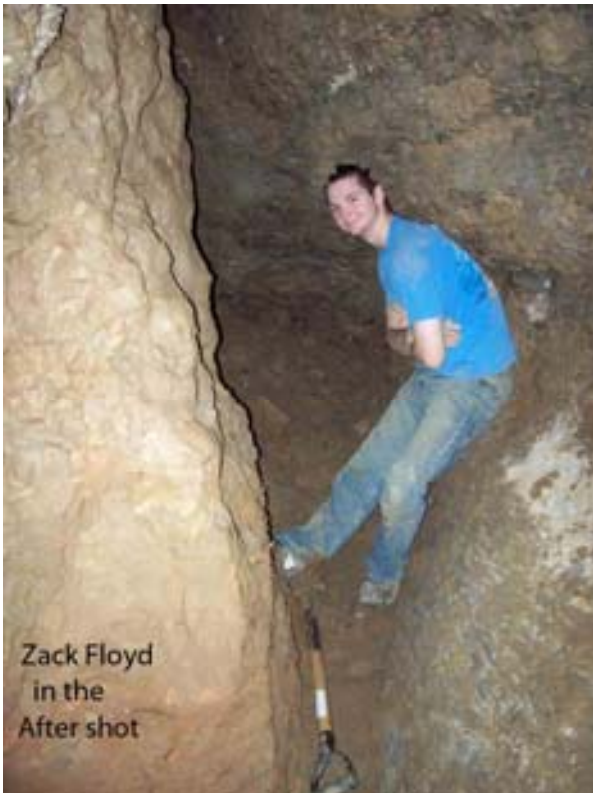


Jerry Downs treated us to pizza for lunch. He also had bottled water and Cokes for us throughout the day. As we waited for the pizza Todd Zimmerman showed up to help with the afternoon session. The stream of visitors that kept Sonny busy in the morning prevented him from helping us at times.



With the additional help we hit the dig hard. We had a floor level passage a shovel wide, up past the candlesticks. To our left was the clay bank that holds up the candlesticks. To our right was bedrock, sloping down toward our feet.





After lunch we hauled out 72 buckets of clay. That gave us a grand total of 116 buckets for the day and 22 donated hours of labor.

### UPDATED: **Body of a newborn found in Wythe County cave** - wtvrSign

News UPDATED: Body of a newborn found in Wythe County cave. Police suspect the mother and grandmother hid the body of the newborn child in a cave

WYTHEVILLE, Va. UPDATED: Friday 2:10 p.m. —

Ashley April Meadows and her mother, Twyla J. Meadows, were arraigned Friday morning in Wythe County Juvenile and Domestic Relations court. The two are both charged with concealment of a body and are being held without bond.

Wythe County Sheriff Doug King tells News-7 the body of a newborn was found about 3:30 p.m. Thursday in a cave along Route 11 in the

Grahams Forge area. Social Services had received a tip about the situation. The child's body was sent to the medical examiner's office for autopsy. King says investigators have not yet been able to determine if the baby was stillborn or died in the cave. There were no obvious signs of trauma. Investigators believe the body could have been there for as long as two weeks. Sheriff King said the department has never dealt with a case like this before.

The suspected mother and grandmother of a dead infant in Wythe County are charged with hiding the newborn's body in a cave. The Sheriff says deputies acted on an anonymous tip to social services. That tip lead them to a small cave in the Grahams Forge community in Wythe County. Deputies found the baby's body tucked away there.

20-year-old Ashley April Meadows and 60-year-old Twyla J. Meadows are charged with felonies. The newborn's cause of death hasn't been determined but more charges are anticipated in the case.

The law does allow being proven guilty before saying one is or not the same. However, I do believe if the pair did commit this act they should be punished. I cannot imagine a mother or any adult disposing of a baby fresh in the world. If they did not want the child there are so many who would love to have a gift as such of their own. There is no excuse for a senseless act. Shame on you both I hope they will live with their act for the duration of their lives. Sad though when people do such things I believe have lost a certain thing called conscious well before they did what they did. If they had not we would not be reading about them now. It is unfortunate there are people out here just like this walking, living and abiding in the same neighborhoods we who think sane live. We all must be careful as time goes by the people in this world are going to get worse and worse.



## Tri-State Grotto Meeting

Wed, Jan 12, 2011

John DiCarlo called the meeting together at 7:05 pm.

Jerry gave the financial report.

### Old Business:

We still need a Secretary (Paulette volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting).

We talked about the Christmas party. There were 36 people in attendance. We had a 'White' Christmas party because there was 1" of snow on the ground.

### New Business:

Membership dues are now due for 2011.

Keith asked if Tri-State would again help with Heritage (Adam Stephen) Day again this year. The date is May 7, 2011.

Another Adam Stephen dig was talked about. We need to have someone reinforce the stone wall where we have gone under the wall to the outside. The date is Mar 12, 2011.

A house on E. Burke St was torn down. There was supposed to have been an entrance to the tunnels in the basement of the house.

We talked about when Donaldson Cave reopened. It reopened late last spring of 2010.

John has some people who want to go into Nestle Quarry Cave. He will check with the owner.

We will be having a dig at Crystal Grottoes Cavern on Sat, Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 10am.

Lee talked about going to Luray Caverns. The tour was 2 hours long. He said he was going to Lost World Caverns the next time.

Ellie wanted a description of Donaldson Cave. Jerry sent her a 2 page description.

The largest cave in the world was talked about.

Spring VAR is the weekend of Apr 29-May 1 in Durbin, WV.

We talked about WHS in Breathing Cave.

We agreed to send our dues (\$50 donation) to MAKC.

We took up Cave Bucks. It totaled \$28. It will again be sent to WVCC.

We had a birthday cave for TSG. TSG is 25 years old!

9 people attended the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Submitted by: Paulette Bennett



Alexander Caverns



# CAVING CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 6TH - MARCH 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9  Meeting 7 pm Carols Crack Cave slide prog	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12
Feb 13	Feb 14  VALENTINE'S DAY VATERAN'S DAY	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19
Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26
Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5
Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12  Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Mar 13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17  ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18	Mar 19

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Blowhole Cave

**1- CRYSTAL GROTTOES DIG**

**2- BABY FOUND IN CAVE**



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TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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**TO:**

