

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



CARAMEL CORNER, NORMAN CAVE

VOL. #26

ISS. #9

SEP

2011

#105



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

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TRI-STATE GROTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP -----**\$10.00** (Must be NSS)
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---**\$12.00** (Non-NSS)
 SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-**\$12.00** (Non-Voting)
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LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
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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 Jeff Jahn
 in Norman Cave, Greenbrier 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 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)

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!



CAVING EVENTS

2011

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

SEP 1-5 ----- **OTR!!!!**

SEP 3 ----- Doo Dah Parade – 10am

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**

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-](http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf)

[cavers.pdf](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

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 August ----- \$35.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$5039.00

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Twila Bracken, Art Hanson Sr, Ann
Muldoon, Nathan Roser

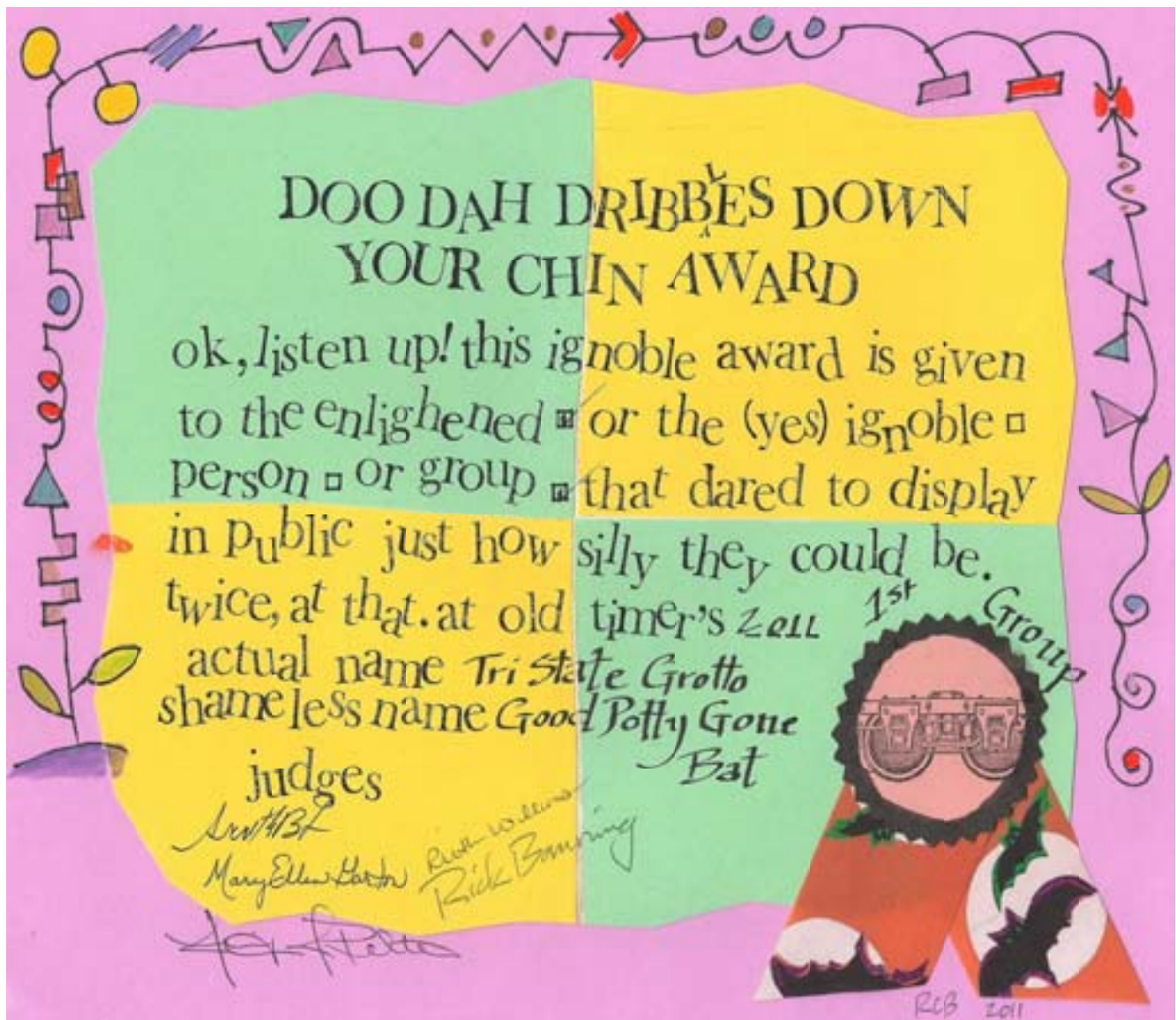
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GROTTO NEWS

TRI-STATE DID IT AGAIN!!!!!!

Well we did it again! We're #1 in the Doo Dah Parade for the 4th or 5th time!!!! Our entry into the Doo Dah won 1st place and we also won best costumes! We received a trophy for the costumes!



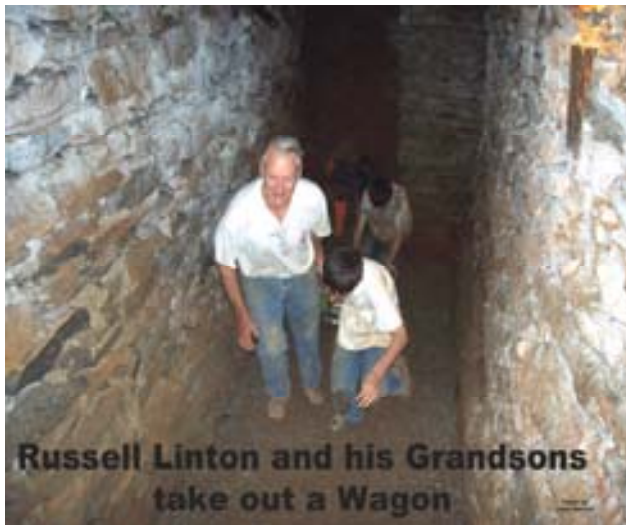


The Dig at Crystal Grottoes Caverns

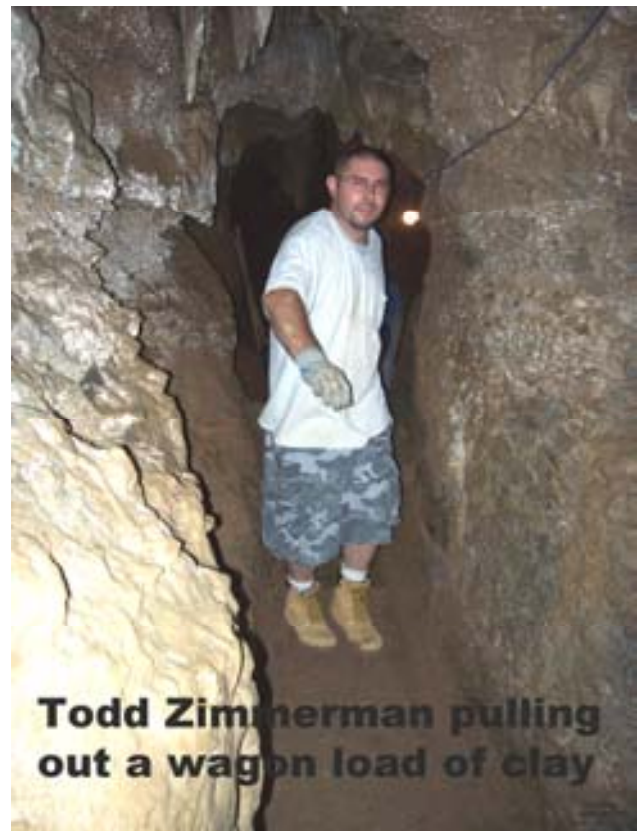
By John Di Carlo NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD - Russell Linton and his three grandchildren started digging a little before 10 am. They had three wagonloads before 10 am. They had started digging on a collapse about 15 feet off the visitor trail at the pig ears. This blocked the way to our dig site.

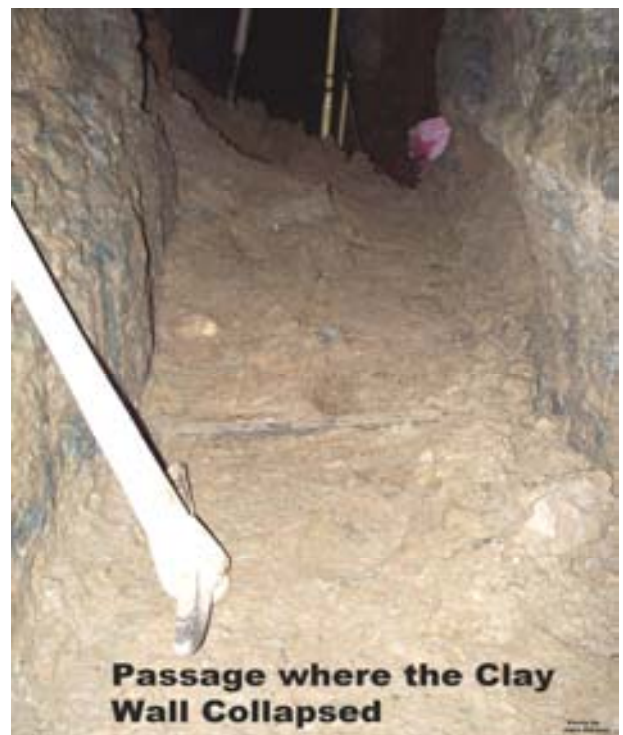
As more people arrived we moved some people down the passage to the lead dig site and left others to work on the collapse. A wagon was pulled out that was full of water. It had been sitting there since the last dig and had filled with drips off the formations on the ceiling.



Over time we had tried different implements to dig with. Nothing was working for us. The clay would stick to a shovel, which made shoving clay into anything a big chore. We would use the shovel to break up the clay then pick up the clumps by hand. This time I brought my hoe. It would slice into the clay. Lifting the handle would break out blocks of clay. These were easier to pick up and throw into the wagons. We filled the wagons in record time. Really, we over-filled the wagons. We had four drywall bucket loads in them.



The crew that was digging the collapse cleaned it up and also widened the area so it would be an easier turn for the wagons. The lead crew made it tough on them. When they filled a wagon the crew at the collapse would have to move their wagon to let the lead wagon by.





By lunchtime we had 50 wagonloads of clay and one wagonload of water taken out.



Crystal Grottoes served us pizza for lunch. One was pepperoni and one cheese. They ordered two more pepperoni pizzas that came at afternoon snack time. There were two buckets of iced down, bottled water, for drinks.



After lunch the dig started back up. The wagons started spewing out of the cave again. Paulette Bennett, who was counting wagons, had her chair and cooler set up right outside the backdoor. She didn't miss a one.



Russell Linton had to act as a traffic cop. With all three wagons flying in and out we didn't want any head on collisions. Going down the passages the wagons couldn't pass each other. There are only a few spots that they could pull over to pass.



The Crew was as follows: Russell Linton, Justin Lawall, Collin Lawall, Jarod Buchanan, Nathan Roser, John Di Carlo, Ali Ferreira, Dave Cunningham, Cory Hackley, Bob Bennett, Paulette Bennett, James Durst, Art Hanson, Jr., Malakai Hanson, Todd Zimmerman, Douglas Kretzer, Cody Margetson, Tom Twigg, Christal Hanson, Lucas Hanson, and Joe Clemens.

This gave us 21 people, with 126 hours of donated labor worth \$2,520.00.

There was a record amount of clay taken out. We took out 101 wagonloads of clay. This equaled 404 drywall buckets of clay or 202 cubic feet of clay. We also took out one wagonload of water and 2 wagonloads of rock. Total 104 wagons and one long 6-inch hose that was in the way. [Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Text Box Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]



TRIP REPORTS

Darby Cave: Maryland's Largest?

Jesse Thompson and I were on our way out to check a lead in the Hancock area when a thought struck my fancy: on our way, why not stop and briefly check out Darby cave?

My last and first visit to the cave had been in the early spring of 2010. On that occasion, the cave was roaring with snowmelt: a truly remarkable volume of water was entering its maw. We were unequipped to deal with the cold water, so our explorations had to be postponed. Seeing how much water the cave could handle, I vowed to return. Now, approaching the entrance with Jesse, I was amazed to see the streambed bone dry where it entered the cave. We scrambled down to the entrance to gear up and start exploring, but my heart sank when I saw nothing but an enormous pile of flood debris where the entrance had been. Approaching, I thought I could still see the blackness of the void ahead, and sure enough, with the pull of a few sticks, we had a passable opening into the entry corridor. Hurrah!

Travel was easy on the dry, sand and gravel floor. Within a minute we were at the end of the known cave, staring at a few measly holes full of flood debris. I dove down the most inviting, but after 30 feet or so came up with nothing: a blank wall of clay. Back in the main corridor, I tried a different approach. Removing several small obstacles of sticks and logs, I was soon in a lower level passage about 8 feet below the entrance corridor, floored with cobble. The passage ended at a small hole, but I could see through to another small room ahead. After digging furiously at the gravel with a few flat rocks, I could squeeze ahead, but again the cave had stymied my efforts. No passable openings seemed to continue off the room.

Defeated, but happy to have added at least a little new passage, I met Jesse in the main passage and we began our short trip to the surface. Not 20' later, I noticed a small hole on the left wall as we faced out. It was hard to tell if it was a true opening, or just a space under a shelf. I almost passed it up, but figured, for the sake of being thorough, I should investigate.

Putting my face to the hole, the air felt peculiarly fresh. The only continuation I could see was up bedding plain at an angle of perhaps 25 degrees. An infeeder, surely: water doesn't flow uphill. Still, I had gone this far. I squirmed up the awkward opening, perhaps 14" high, watching the inevitable end grow closer. Inches from my eyes were gobs of flood debris... plastered to the **UNDERSIDE** of declivities on the wall... When my helmet was not a foot from the apparent end of the passage, I looked at the floor... it was gone!

Below was a clean washed drop of about 15', growing larger as it went deeper. Beautiful calcite veins, pure white, contrasted with the black, thinly bedded tonoloway limestone all around. Tan formations hung from the ceiling, their surfaces pitted by frequent exposure to torrents of undersaturated water. I called Jesse from behind me: "You should probably come see this!" I was already down the pit by the time my words had left my mouth, and staring at virgin walking passage in both directions. Jesse was right behind me, and we turned in the apparent downstream direction.

In a number of feet we were at an impasse: a thick blockage of leaves and sticks. But again, they were trapped as if water had pushed them from the downstream direction. We were going the wrong way! Excited, we turned around, rushing past the entrance climb and toward the abyss beyond. Sure enough, The passage began dropping, and we strolled forward along the dry stream course. About 100' from the entrance climb, we encountered another 10' drop leading to a parallel passage, which in turn dropped

another 10' to a lower yet passage with leads in both directions. We began systematically exploring the cave from this point, finding ever-lower strike passages connected by drops following the steeply dipping beds of the rock. The passages have a conspicuous lack of clay, and instead are floored by cobbles, gravel, sand, and flood debris. We were often enjoying walking, climbing, stooping, and spacious crawling. The cave grew so quickly and was so similar to itself that we were becoming disoriented. Finding a series of chutes descending an additional 30' or so to a sump, I feared our fun had come to an end. Yet, on the way out, I noticed yet another small chute at the end of a strike passage, which led to even lower levels. This process of finding false ends, and subsequently finding bypasses, repeated itself several times, until finally I found myself facing a crawlway with steady airflow and acoustics like a storm drain. Within a hundred feet, the passage had not changed shape or size and had become clean washed limestone. Another 50 feet or so, and I took advantage of a spacious lower level chamber to rest. I spent a few minutes here, looking at multiple infeeders from up dip. We had been traveling in the exact opposite direction as the entry corridor. Surely we were roughly under the streambed and, hidden beneath the gravel above, these infeeders quietly steal water unseen. Returning to the crawlway, the experience just got more bizarre. I felt like I had been shrunk down to a quarter inch in size and was now crawling through my home plumbing, inspecting it for leaks. Suddenly, the crawl ended, after what I estimate to be about 300', and gave way to a lower chamber, similar to the last I had rested in. From the floor descended another of these infernal bottomless chutes, twisting and turning downwards at about a 60-degree angle. I went down and down, back and forth, and finally emerged perhaps 35 feet lower in another crawlway, facing exactly opposite the direction of the last tube and sloping gently down. This continued in comfortable proportion for another number of hundreds of feet until it opened into a series of rooms

and stoopways. Now over 700' from Jesse, I deemed there to be too much cave for the day and made a hasty retreat.

I met Jesse resting in between the opposing crawls, and we explored some infeeders. Exhausted and disoriented, we began picking our way back upward to the entrance. At the top of one memorable climb, Jesse cautioned me:

"Careful of the snapping turtle."

(Pause)

"What?"

"There's a snapping turtle up there."

"Where?"

"Under a rock. He looks just like everything else. I was staring at a rock while you were gone, and when it moved I realized it was actually a snapping turtle. Just try and keep to the left side. "

I looked around. From my vantage, I saw about 15 places that could house a well camouflaged full grown snapper, most of them in my way. After a careful look, I noticed one rock with a beady little eye staring back at me. I made haste.

Finally we emerged from the entrance in the late afternoon summer air. Due to the complexity of the cave, it will be difficult to get a clear picture of just how much footage it contains, but I estimate having seen no less than 1800' of new passage, and descending to a depth in excess of 100'. This puts Darby cave in a solid position as the 3rd longest cave in the state, and the potential for expansion is enormous. The cave's remarkable system of chutes and ladders makes it impossible to tell where water is lost, gained, and in some cases, which direction it even moves. The cave clearly floods very violently and should be considered extremely dangerous. The karst in the area is impressive and suggests much more cave. Survey trips will likely reveal far more than has been seen so far.

The access situation is ambiguous and sensitive, especially during hunting season, as the land it is on is sportsman's club property. Some members of the club are friendly to cavers and others aren't, and the administrative system of the club seems loosely organized. Officially, the cave ought to be considered and advertised as closed.

~Corey Hackley

Graveyard Caves

Several weeks ago Bob Bennett and I made a necessary excursion to replace the lock on Donaldson's cave: the combination to the lock seems to have slipped out into the ether, never to be recovered. Luckily we were able to cut off the old lock and replace it with a more reliable one. Upon returning to the car, Bob quickly discovered that he had put the car keys in the same place he put the old combination. A quick trip back to the entrance, and the problem was resolved.



Never to disappoint, Bob had an interesting lead near Martinsburg High School. It was described to him by a couple boys who had happened upon an entrance and cut school to explore. Sounds like something I would do. Bob had been to the location before the report, and noticed some interesting holes, but being alone did not investigate further. He did notice, however, that the area was taking a

great deal of drainage. As we drove down 9, I watched the storms move around us, hoping they held off.



He wasn't lying. The first sinkhole we happened upon seems to take the majority of the water. The grass was flattened out from torrential waterflow all around it; it pointed inwards to a sheer drop in clay, perhaps 7 feet high. At the bottom of the escarpment was an empty plunge pool, with rocks in the bottom. The flow here was clearly very powerful at its peak. A ravine ran from this area to the first cave or swallet. It was a low opening about a body length long in the c horizon of the soil, with large pieces of detached bedrock forming the ceiling and walls. This is where the water had been going. I was stopped by some football sized rocks in my path and general apprehension about the stability of my surroundings. While nothing encouraging was visible ahead, a steady flow of cool, moist air, tells a tale of passages ahead.

We scrambled out the ravine (full of undermined drain pipes, logs, brush, and trash) and up the adjacent hillside. I spotted a very active sink and made a bee-line for it. As I approached and my perspective changed, the sink seemed deeper and deeper. I kept expecting to see the bottom, and didn't until I was at the sink's very lip. An entrance appeared at the bottom and I dove in, Bob shortly behind me. I was at once struck by two things: the impressiveness of the opening, and the impending collapse of everything around

me. I gingerly slipped through a small hole in boulders into a similar chamber below. I repeated this process two more times, finally chineying into a terminal room. At this depth, there was lots of evidence of recent powerful water flow. I suspect that this cave bypasses the first and receives its water. In general, it was an impressive but scary place. It also reeks of trash. Digging here would likely yield more cave, but would probably yield death first. I guess that this cave spiraled downwards from the lip of the sink to a level of about -45'.



Our next cave was in a similar sink down the line. I was very pleased to see a solid ceiling above my head. An upper level went into the hillside horizontally for about 20 feet. A hole in the floor lead into a spacious passage, perhaps 30' long, descending along the dip. This passage ended in a circular room about 10- 15' in diameter. I estimate this cave has about 60' of passage total and is the safest and most cave-like of the cluster.

The next caves were in a sinkhole along the fence at the base of the hill. Facing towards the hill, there was an entrance on the left and on the right. These were the holes that Bob had spotted on his first trip. The one on the left was maybe 15' long, and amounted to nothing more than a shelter really (although rocks can be heard to fall into another lower, blocked chamber.) The one on the right was about a body length long and promptly plugged.



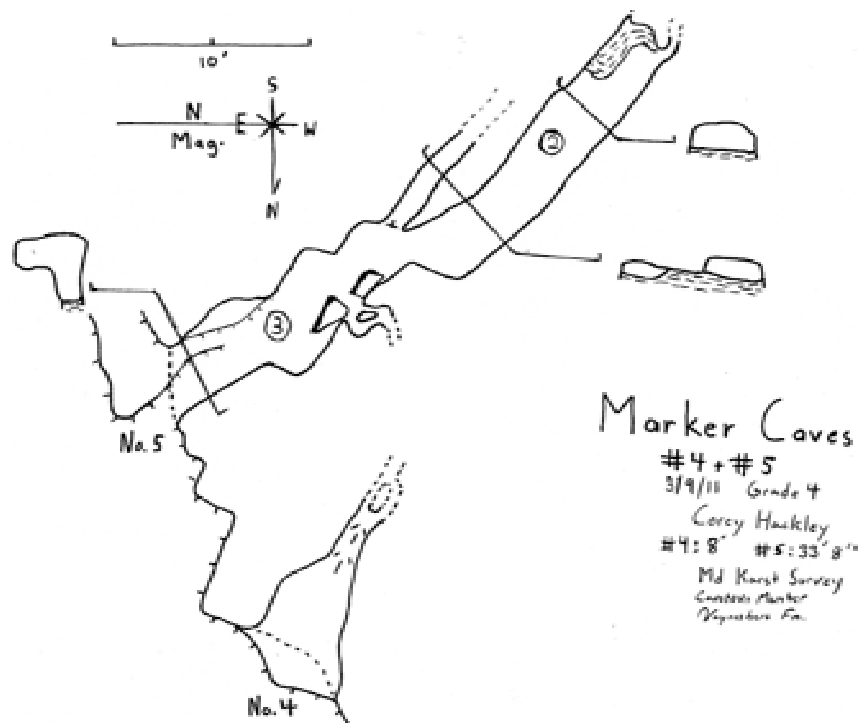
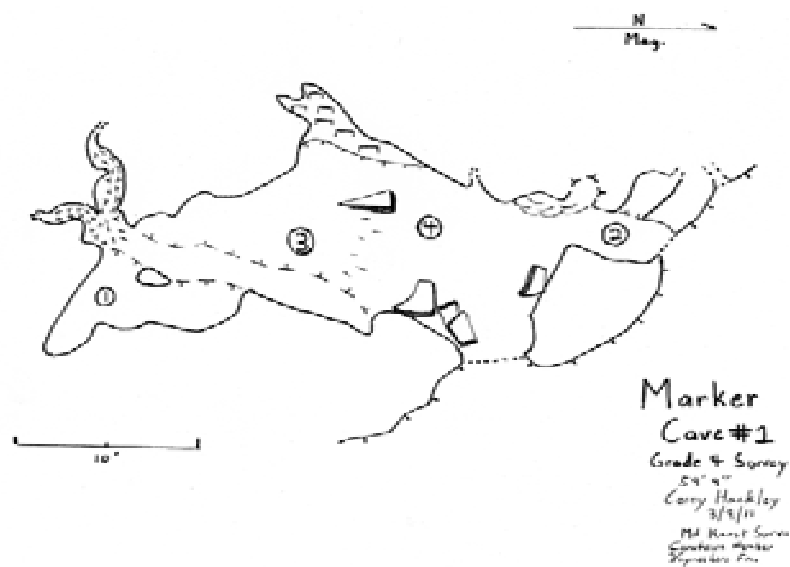
The caves all appear to be in Chambersburg limestone. They are characteristically spaces excavated of their clay by water along cutters and minor solutional cavities in the rock. It is hard to tell what could rightly be called bedrock and loose. This sort of development is typical of great valley karst, but this is some of the most active and dramatic karst activity I have seen in the area. If a way on could be found, it might lead to more extensive passages, as all that water has to go somewhere.

Corey Hackley

Survey Trip: The Marker Caves

Corey Hackley

Franz and Slifer make brief mention of several other crawlways in the cliff face in which Marker cave #1 is located. In April, I made a solo day trip to the caves by kayak to survey Marker Cave and its friends. In all, 6 caves were identified, 5 were surveyed, and 2 were of moderate length (by Maryland standards). Cave #1 is, as described, mostly a single, broad entrance room. Caves #2 and #3 are immediately next to one another. Neither exceeds 15' in length. Caves #4 and #5 are developed adjacent to each other as well, and show a possible air connection. #6 is another short crawlway, ending in a fill plug. All caves are developed in the Cavetown member of the Waynesboro formation, of lower Cambrian age.





Halloween at OTR



CANYON CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 11TH - OCTOBER 22ND



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 11 GRAND PARENT'S DAY PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12 Growing Communities on Karst	Sep 13 Growing Communities on Karst	Sep 14  Meeting 7pm	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17
Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23  EQUINOX	Sep 24 Fall Bash
Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1
Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6 FALL TAG CAVE-IN	Oct 7 FALL TAG CAVE-IN	Oct 8 FALL TAG CAVE-IN
Oct 9 FALL TAG CAVE-IN	Oct 10 FALL TAG CAVE-IN COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 11	Oct 12  Meeting 7pm Annual Auction	Oct 13	Oct 14 FALL VAR RASS Field House	Oct 15 FALL VAR RASS Field House Bridge Day
Oct 16 FALL VAR RASS Field House	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Great White Way, Norman Cave

1- TRI-STATE DOES IT AGAIN!!!!!!!!!!

2- DARBY CAVE: MARYLAND'S LONGEST?



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TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS

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