

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



MYSTIC CAVE

VOL. #27

ISS. #1

JAN

2012

#1



The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a publication of the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO** of the NSS. The OPINIONS expressed herein are not necessarily those of the EDITOR, the GROTTTO, nor the NSS. Material that is unsigned may be attributed to the EDITOR. Material contained within this PUBLICATION may be reproduced by the NSS and its GROTTOS, provided that PROPER CREDIT is given to the **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** and the AUTHOR.

The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS**. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO**.

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

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR ----- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323
 V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304
 TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476
 SECRETARY – Paulette Bennett ---- 304-579-4304
 Member At Large ----
 Membership Chair --- Bob Bennett ---304-579-4304
 Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ----304-579-4304
 Conservation Chair--Corey Hackley --301-432-2257
 P R Chair ----- JC Fisher ----- 304-258-4974
 Safety Chair ----- Carl Amundson ----540-955-0611
 Program Dir -----
 Funding ----- Paulette Bennett -----304-579-4304
 Equip. Chair ----Bob Bennett ----- 304-579-4304

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**

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
 (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 or can be SENT TO:

JERRY BOWEN, TREASURER
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 17817 STONE VALLEY CR.
 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
 301-790-0476

E-MAIL: bookmaker-jb@myactv.net

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
 GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
 304-579-4304

E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

*** The photo on the cover was taken by Nikki Fox in Mystic Cave, Pendleton 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

2012

JAN 1 ----- NEW YEARS DAY
 JAN 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JAN 14 ----- Adam Stephen dig work day – 9am
 JAN 16 ----- MARTIN MUTHER KING DAY
 JAN 24 ----- TSG BIRTHDAY
 FEB 2 ----- GROUND HOG DAY
 FEB 5 ----- SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
 FEB 8 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 FEB 11 ----- Crystal Grottoes dig – 10am
 FEB 14 ----- VALENTINE'S DAY
 FEB 14 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
 FEB 20 ----- PRESIDENT'S DAY
 MAR 8 ----- FAT TUESDAY
 MAR 11 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
 MAR 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7PM
 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 6 ----- GOOD FRIDAY
 APR 8 ----- EASTER
 APR 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 APR 15 ----- TAX DAY
 APR 22 ----- EARTH DAY
 APR 27 ----- ARBOR DAY
 APR 27-29 --- SPRING VAR – Hosted by TSG in
 Greenbrier Co, WV at the Poorfarm
 Festival Grounds
 MAY 5 ----- CINCO de MAYO
 MAY 9 ----- TSG meeting – 7PM
 MAY 10 ----- DAY of PRAYER
 MAY 12 ----- Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day)
 MAY 13 ----- MOTHER'S DAY
 MAY 19 ----- ARMED FORCES DAY
 MAY 28 ----- MEMORIAL DAY
 JUN 8-10 ----- Bubble Weekend
 JUN 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JUN 14 ----- FLAG DAY
 JUN 17 ----- FATHER'S DAY
 JUN 20 ----- WV DAY
 JUN 20 ----- SUMMER SOLSTICE
 JUN 25-30 --- NSS Convention, Lewisburg, WV
 JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
 JUL 11 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JUL 14 ----- TSG picnic

***** 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 November----- \$22.00

Month of December----- \$11.00

TOTAL TO DATE: --- \$5103.00

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

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-cavers.pdf>
 WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>
 WNS ----- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF DECEMBER

Priscilla Armer, Carry Cumbo, Corey
Hackley, Barbara Jefferson, Janey Pate,
Joe Reeves, Dillon Teeple, Evert Bonito
Vis

MONTH OF JANUARY

Eric Armer, Chris Coates, Danny Cumbo,
Judy Fisher, Sonny Floyd, Bob Gray,
Stacey Hajenga, Keith Hammersla, Tim
McDougle, Van Pell, Jason Rice,
Fiord'aloza Vis, Trish Walthers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GROTTO NEWS

Tri-State Grotto Meeting

Dec. 14, 2011

John called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

JC gave a report on the Spring VAR. It will be held on April 24-25-26, 2012 at the Poor Farm Festival Ground, Williamson, WV. We will need road signs for directions. We need sodas & water donated.

Bob gave a report on trips set up for VAR.

Old Business: Jeff gave a report on Scout's park in Pocahontas for a future VAR.

New Business: Judy made a request to do a cleanup in Whittings Neck Cave (maybe in June).

Projects:

Christmas party – Sat, Dec 17

Adam Stephen dig – Sat, Jan 14

Crystal Grottoes dig – Sat, Feb 11

Trips:

Jerry is setting up a trip to Silers on Sun after the Christmas party.

Cave Bucks: \$11.00

Elections:

Same people were voted in by acclimation!

There were 17 people in attendance

Respectfully submitted by Paulette Bennett
Tri-State Grotto Secretary

The annual Grotto Christmas Celebration was a success. There were lots of food and friends. The weather was decent and everyone had a good time. If you want to be with friends and celebrate the holiday season just attend the 2012 version of the Christmas Celebration. After all this just might be the last party that you will attend (according to the Mayan calendar that is)!

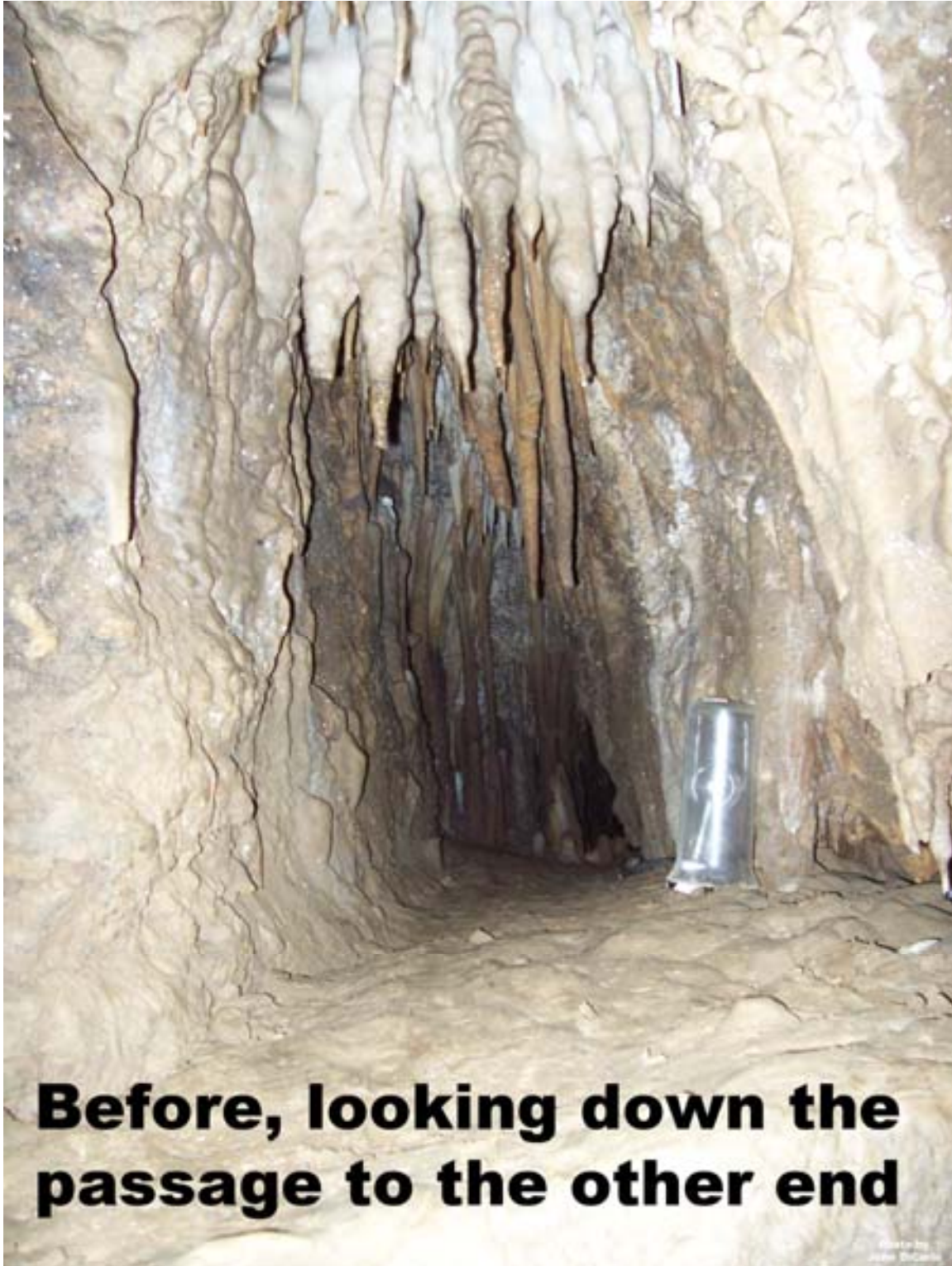


Crystal Grottoes Caverns Dig

The Pickerel Frog

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD – Once again Tri-State Grotto returned to Crystal Grottoes Caverns to dig on the Tri-State Grotto Passage.



**Before, looking down the
passage to the other end**

Russell Linton and I decided to run a tape before we started digging. From the end of a previous dig started in the Turtle room to where we had stopped digging last time, we ran the tape. We found out that we are only 16 feet from busting through. We continued running the tape down the passage where we had dug before. It was 17 feet 2 inches to the bend. Another 14 feet and we are at the end of the passage. Turning left into a 24-foot passage that we dug before; we went 8 feet to the end. This end is where we first started digging. That gives us 55 feet 2 inches of passage that we have dug out so far.



When we headed into the cave to run the tape we came across a Pickerel Frog *Rana palustris*. The Pickerel Frog is sometimes mistaken for a Northern Leopard Frog. *Rana pipiens* The Northern Leopard spot's are irregular and scattered. Pickerel Frogs have chocolate-brown spots arranged in two rows between the dorsolateral folds. With Pickerel Frogs their dorsolateral folds continue unbroken down the back. With Leopard Frogs there is a break in the dorsolateral folds near the back.

Pickerel Frogs breed from March to May usually after heavy rains. Mating takes place in standing water. Females lay spherical egg masses attached to submerged vegetation. The egg masses can contain 700 to 3000 eggs. When laid each egg has an average diameter of 1.6 millimeters. In 87 to 95 days the tadpoles turn into small frogs and leave the water. It takes two years before these frogs can reproduce. Their lifespan is five to eight years.

The Pickerel Frog Habitat includes slow cool wooded streams, springs, seeps, rivers, and swamps. In the summer dense vegetation, meadows, grassy fields and cave entrances. Pickerel Frogs hibernate from October until March or April.

Their diet includes crickets; fly larvae, earthworms, and other insects.

Pickerel Frogs have a toxic glandular secretion from their skin that mildly affects humans. It is harmful to small mammals and other frogs. This secretion is unappetizing to most predators.

Folklore has it that this frog got its name from being used as bait by fishermen fishing for pickerel, which is a predatory fish.



Returning to our dig site, a wagon was backed up to the bank of clay and the hoe was used to break off hunks of clay. As they broke off they mostly rolled down into the wagon. I took the first shift with the hoe. After we filled three wagons Russell and I pulled them to the outside. More people showed up and I was able to stay on the clay bank bringing down the wall.



It was going fast. As soon as a wagon was pulled out another one took its place. I was working the top half so it would roll down into the wagon. I also was trying to stay on the left side. On the right side stalactites were growing down right to the floor. I didn't want to break them. After digging past them. I dug two feet down into the by pasted clay on the right. Now I could break off hunks without damaging the formations. After digging for a while. I had to stop digging the top part of the clay bank and dig on the lower half. We had dug up to the last light from the tourist trail. The bottom half was slower as after the hunks of clay were broken off they had to be picked up and placed into the wagons. There was only room for one person in the passageway. Todd Zimmerman relieved me on the hoe and he dug until we broke for lunch. Lunch came at 1:30. By then we had fifty-some wagonloads.



Jerry Downs had ordered us two Very large pizzas, one cheese and one pepperoni and mushrooms. We tried as hard as we could and couldn't finish them.

I heard several people say, I'm thinking that I have had enough, but maybe just one more".

As you can see, Cory made sure he got lunch this time. Last dig we couldn't get him to come out of a hole. By the time he did the pizza was all gone.



After lunch we slowly went back to the dig. I started digging as Cory climbed up to move the last light form the visitors trail. After a bit Cory relieved me and dug till we stopped.



After we stopped for the day Russell and I ran the tape measure again. Now we are only 11 feet before we meet up with the old dig from the other side.

Our helpers were: Russell Linton, Bob Bennett, Joe Clemens, Cory Hackley, Todd Zimmerman, and John Di Carlo.

We took out 75 wagonloads of clay, which equals 300 drywall bucks. We extended the passage five more feet.

A Short Trip Report

On Saturday night, December 17 Tri-State Grotto held their highly successful, and well attended Christmas party at the Bennett's home, a lighthouse in the community. This annual event is the location of a warm fire, good food and great company. If you weren't there, you missed a great gathering. Crazy cavers sometimes desire one more caving trip before they close out the year, so this annual party is usually the gathering for hastily-planned 'next-day' trips. Party attendees were invited to attend. Silers Cave has recently been made available to organized cavers, so a trip was planned to visit that cave in Berkeley County, West Virginia.

This slow, leisurly trip turned out to be a family event for three families, thirteen attending. Jerry invited his (non caver) next-door neighbor Aaron for an introductory, two hour visit.

We did not see all of the cave to be sure, but made it back to Sligo Grotto, Bobs Section, the Breakdown Room, the Rest Room, the Tire Passage, the Pool Room and the entire front section.

The new owners are bending over backwards to accommodate visitors. We found newly-designed off-street parking, and a new trail leading up to the sink-hole entrance. The steel gate in the entrance room is still doing its work. What's new is, visitors need to sign a waiver. For information about that, inquire at this email address:

silerscaveinfo@yahoo.com

Kudos to all the VAR cavers who have gone before, the mappers, gaters and manager. All have left their mark on this wonderful cave. The future here looks bright for everyone!

Jerry Bowen



Jerry's next door neighbor at the Pool Room (Bowen)



Silers Pool (Bowen)

Spring 2012 VAR

Seasons Greetings from the Members of Tri-State Grotto.

As visions of sugar plums and going underground dance thru your head let us invite you to Spring VAR instead.

Once again Tri-State Grotto is hosting Spring VAR. The event will be held at the Poor Farm Festival Grounds in Williamsburg, WV. The dates for this event will be 27th, 28th, & 29th of April. We have lots of cave trips planed, including some on site plus lots of non-caving activities such as biking on the Greenbrier River Trail, Canoe or Kayak on the Greenbrier, hiking, geocatching, antiquing, and more.

To start off a great weekend, Tri-State's Chair – John DiCarlo – will host a wine and bluegrass get-together Friday night at the stage. Bring a bottle of your favorite vino and join others to sample and enjoy some bluegrass.

Saturday morning Vice Chair Bob Bennett has a very large lineup of “led trips”. Those who pre-register will have an opportunity to sign up early. Some of the trips we're working on include: Culverson Creek, Windy Mouth, McClungs, Bone, Lost World, Poor Farm (Pocahontas), Poor Farm (Greenbrier), Organ (Lipps), Maxwellton (Photo trip), Cabble & Briar Pits, Norman, Higginbothams and others. John Pearson has an on-site conservation project building some steps at Poor Farm plus a 2nd conservation project of the replacement of the fence cross-over at Davis Spring. We will try and get both the projects done that weekend. Saturday night's dinner will feature Pit Barbeque pork and chicken with beans, potato salad, coleslaw, and drinks. Also we haven't forgotten you vegetarians. The owners of Poor Farm will cater the meal. We're working on a Saturday night speaker. John Fox will DJ with the traditional caver's libations available on Saturday night. The always popular VAR business meeting will be held Sunday morning for you speleo politicians. We'll try to convince Front Royal Grotto to do their wonderful Sunday Breakfast.

There will also be an NCRC workshop. This workshop is intended to help cavers fine-tune their existing climbing system, work on ascending techniques and practice change-overs. If they don't know how to do a change-over, we will teach them. We would also help cavers that want to get ready for the entrance requirements for the NCRC weeklong in May. The Vertical workshop will begin on Friday and go until Sunday. Folks can come by anytime and play. (Carl Amundson & Kurt Waldron)

WOW!!!

We also will raffle off a 2012 Mayacon convention registration with a shirt, guide book, pin, & patch at the VAR!!!! (Thanks to CDCG – Communications Design Consulting Group – who donated the registration package.)

A pre registration Form is included with this newsletter. We strongly advise you to use this. By pre registering you also insure we have a meal for you and it makes planning a whole lot easier.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring. More information will be in the Spring Region Record. For now – Have a Wonderful Holiday from all of us at Tri-state.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#27

I.#1

JAN

2012

14

**Spring 2012
VAR
Registration Form**

Spring 2012 VAR will be held at the Poor Farm Festival Grounds located in Williamsburg, WV. The Grounds are off Rt 219 near Williamsburg WV, just north of Lewisburg, WV. Make a left in Frankford and follow the signs.

Early registration by April 1st 2012 - Full = \$30.00 _____

Early registration by April 1st 2012 - under 15 years old = \$26.00 _____

On – site registration - Full = \$35.00 _____

“ -Under 15 = \$31.00 _____

Please check if you want Vegetarian Option _____

Make check payable to: Tri-State Grotto
Please fill out a form for each person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Grotto: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

MAIL FORM to Judy Fisher
PO Box 276
Berkeley Springs, WV
25411



Chris Coates in Mystic Cave (Fox)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#27

I.#1

JAN

2012

#16



CAVIN CALENDAR

JANUARY 8TH - FEBRUARY 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11  MEETING 7PM	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14 Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Jan 15	Jan 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24  TSG Birthday	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28
Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 	Feb 3	Feb 4
Feb 5 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8  MEETING 7PM	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11 CRYSTAL GROTTOES DIG 10AM
Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14 VALENTINE'S DAY VETERAN'S DAY	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Mystic Cave Entrance (Fox)

- 1- 2012 SPRING KAR REGISTRATION**
- 2- CRYSTAL GROTTOES DIG**



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS
BOB BENNETT, EDITOR
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344
304-579-4304
gimpycaver@comcast.net



TO:

