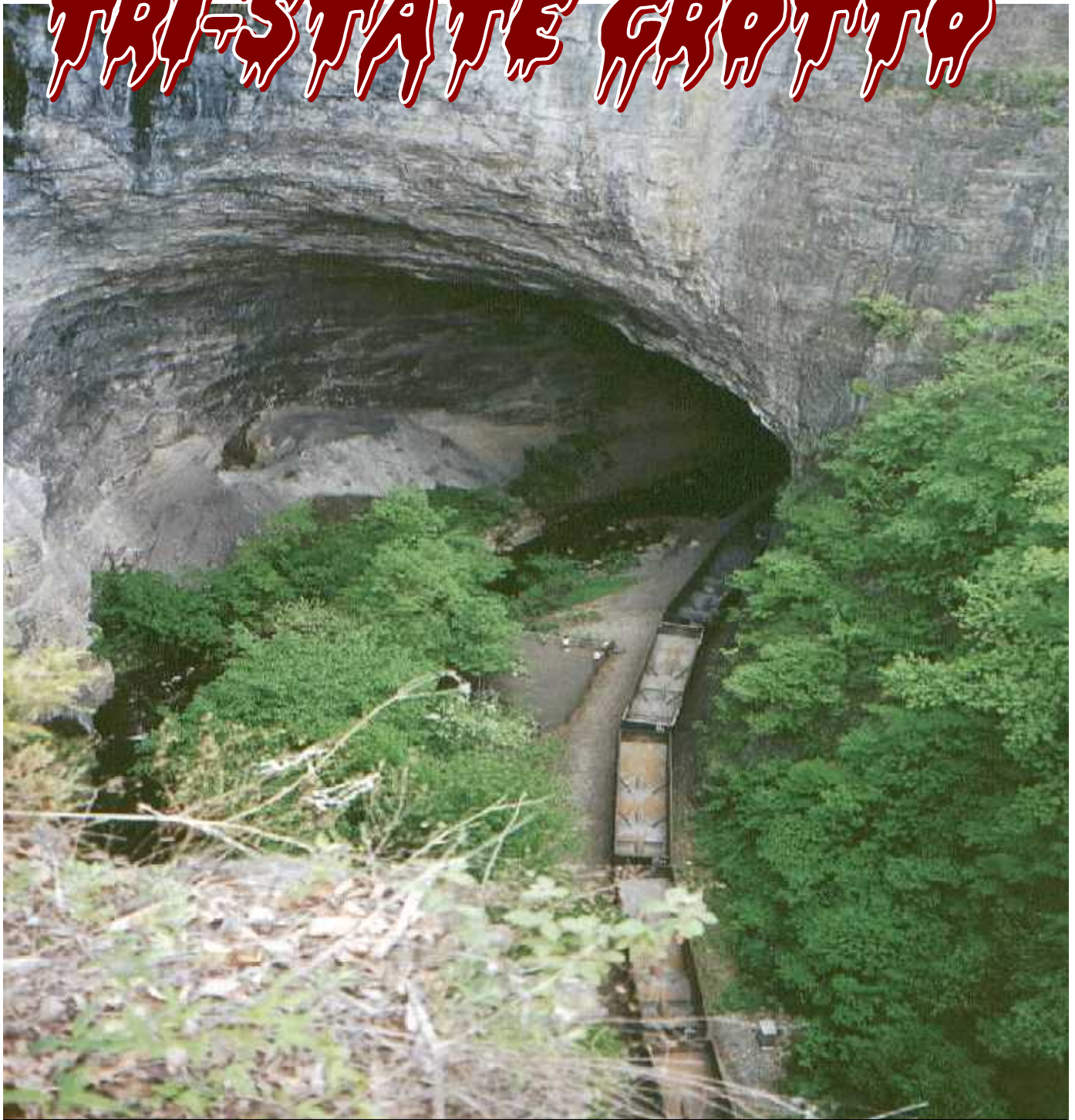


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



NATURAL TUNNEL, VA

VOL. #27

ISS. #11

NOV

2012

#141



(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
 (FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

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*** The photo on the cover was taken by Bob
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**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT
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 STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING
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**PROGRAM CHAIR
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**PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
 SUPPORT!**



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All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG
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CAVING EVENTS

2012

- NOV 4 ----- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
- NOV 6 ----- Election Day
- NOV 10 ----- Sadie Hawkin's Day
- NOV 10 ----- WVCC Banquet, Quality Inn Motel,
Lewisburg, WV – 7pm
- NOV 11 ----- VETERAN'S DAY
- NOV 14 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm - Nominations
- NOV 22 ----- THANKS GIVING
- NOV 23 ----- BLACK FRIDAY
- NOV 25 ----- Hamilton Cave – Scouts – see Earl Suitor
- DEC 12 ----- Grotto meeting – 7pm
- DEC 15 ----- Annual Grotto Christmas Celebration – 6PM
- DEC 16 ----- Christmas Caving!
- DEC 21 ----- WINTER SOLSTICE
- DEC 24 ----- CHRISTMAS EVE
- DEC 25 ----- CHRISTMAS DAY
- DEC 31 ----- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2013

AUG 5-9 ----- NSS Convention, Shippensburg, PA

***** 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 October ----- **\$15.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5289.00**

The money was sent to SCCI!
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/

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- 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>
- Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>
- Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Brooks Brogan, Joe Dellutro,
Nikki Fox, Tom Griffin, Kevin Haney,
Austin Jefferson, Chase Jefferson, Terry
McClanathan, Abby Wootten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TRIP REPORTS

Adam Stephen Dig June 16, 2012

By John DiCarlo, NSS25744
Martinsburg, WV - I arrived at the site and found Russell Linton and Keith Hammersla. As we waited for others to show we hauled the gear to the dig site.

We stood there talking for a while and no one else came.



While we were waiting we decided to wire in an electric outlet. We wired it in with the light by the pulley. This will help with running power down to the dig site for power tools.

Before noon, Mary Lynn Collis showed up. It was too close to lunch to start.



At noon Keith set out the lunch. As we were eating Jennifer Kysar showed up to help with the afternoon session. Keith had to leave after lunch so we still wouldn't have enough to dig. Instead, because Jennifer had not seen the passage on E. King St. we took her over to that site. While we were gone Keith put the lunch away. We came back waited to see if anyone else showed up. No one did so we canceled the dig. We hauled all the gear back down to the van.

Jennifer said she was hoping to get underground. Since I had to take the Wacker back to Crystal Grottoes Caverns that Jerry Downs had loaned us for the dig, I told her she could follow me over there. I've been following the salamanders that were hatched this year at the Caverns. Every time I go by I have taken photos of them. I told her we could go through the cave after I checked on them.

Jennifer followed me to the cave. We returned the Wacker to Jerry Downs. Jerry asked us to wait until a tour that was in the cave, came out. We stood there a bit talking until the tour came back up. Jerry told us to go ahead. We headed down the steps and toured the cave. Jerry had some of the switches redone. I had to hunt for the switch at the Lake Room passage. It had been moved to another wall. We made it to the lake and searched for salamanders. We couldn't find any. Jerry had said that the frogs were eating them. I know each time that I've been back to check on them there were less and less.



Jennifer Kysar in the Blank Room

We left the Lake Room and went to the Blanket Room before heading out the back door. We told Jerry goodbye and that we would see him next month at the Grotto Picnic.

OTR 2012 Nelson Cave

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

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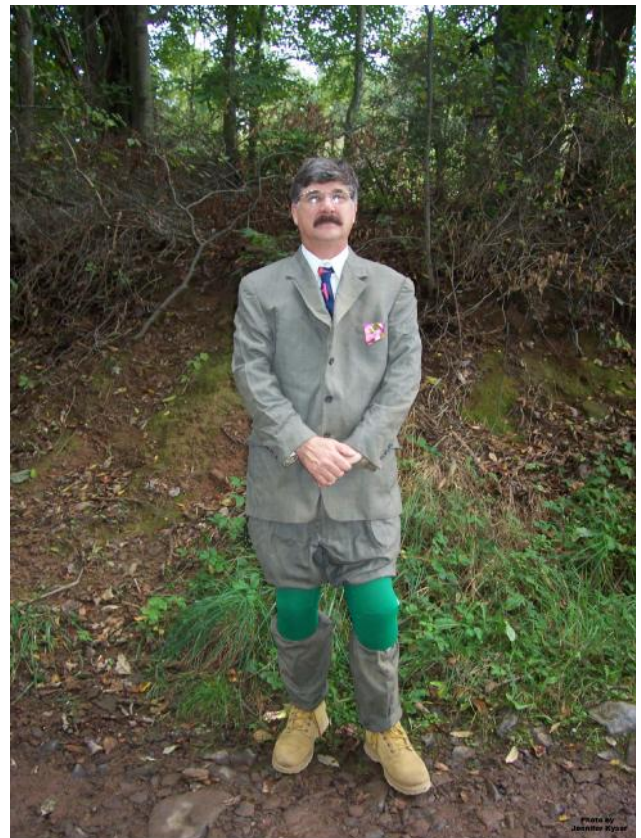
2012

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Whitmer, WV-At OTR Tri-state Grotto again did a dress up trip on Saturday, September 1, 2012. The cave we went to was Nelson Cave.

We met up with half our group at Rich Mountain Rd and Rt33. Heading down the road the directions said go toward Whitmer and turn before the bridge. After passing through Whitmer and seeing a bridge we felt that our directions were off. We drove back to Whitmer. A festival was going on and people were setting up tents. We asked a guy where Nelson cave was and with out missing a beat he told us. Three of us had been to the cave before but no one remembered the turn off.

We made it to the parking spot and suited up, as in suits and dresses.



John DiCarlo dressed up



Jennifer Kysar before she went on her first caving trip.

We crossed the gate, followed the trail across a field, up the ridge across the meadow to the opening in the woods. Not that we found it that easy. As we crossed the meadow we drifted to the right. We hit the woods there and looked around, no cave. We pulled out of the woods and moved back down to the left and there was the opening.

As our group started in, several turned into the right-hand passage.



Nikki Fox shows Lucas Hanson his picture, while Art Hanson, Jr. adjusts Lucas' helmet.

“There’s a Virginia Big-eared Bat,” Someone called out. I took a picture of it.



The First Virginia Big-eared Bat



Art Hanson, Jr

As we continued down the main passage there was a Pip, Tricolored Bat, on the ceiling.



A Pip, Tricolored bat, on the ceiling

Big-eared Bats have isolated populations in southwestern Virginia, eastern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and northwestern North Carolina. They live in limestone caves and abandoned mines.

The Virginia Big-eared Bat is a non-migratory. It resides in caves all year. They mate in fall and winter. Females hold the sperm over winter with ovulation and fertilization taking place in the spring. The female gives birth in June to one pup. A young bat can fly by the time they are three weeks old.

Their favorite food is moths; the small ones they eat whole while picking the wings off of bigger moths. They also eat winged ants, beetles, wasps and flies. They will catch them in the air or pluck them off of blades of grass and leaves.

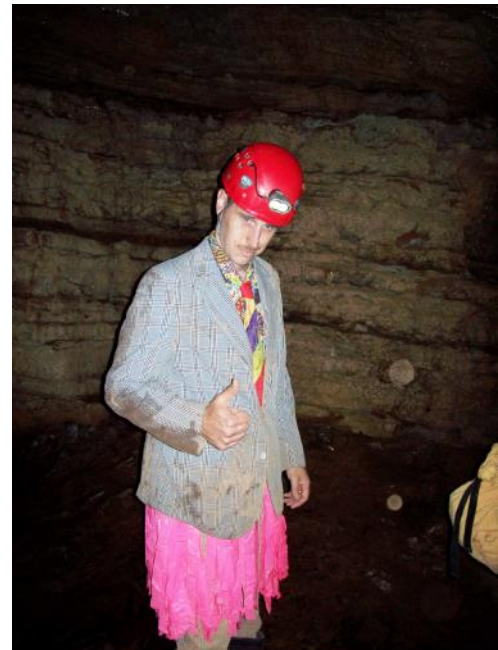
Report all sightings of big-eared bats to Bat Report, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241 or call (304) 637-0245.

On we went and found another Virginia Big-eared Bat. As we continued, a few more flew past us. We saw a least four Virginia Big-eared bats in the cave.



The second Virginia Big-eared bat

The Virginia Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) is a medium-sized bat. It is 3 to 4.5 inches long. The big ears are over an inch long. On the muzzle, there are two glands (Bumps). Virginia Big-eared Bats are pale to dark Brown on the back and light brown underneath. They have short toe hairs. Their lifespan is 16 years. It is Virginia's state bat. There are more Virginia Big-eared Bats in West Virginia than in any other state.



What the best dressed cavers are wearing.

Following the passage we had tall ceilings and a narrow width that was walkable. There were a few

places that were a hands and knees crawl. This arrowhead is over six feet tall.



Arrowhead

At one point we hit a divide. A slice of rock split the passage. The left-hand tunnel was the going one. We came to a small stream that was dropping down a hole in the middle of the passage.



Terri Griffin, Chase Griffin and Amanda Malave

Hitting the end, the passage turned left. This went a short way and we popped out into the largest room in the cave.



Looking up in the largest room of Nelson Cave.

After looking around the room, someone spotted a skull on a ledge. Jeff looked at it and said it was a raccoon skull. You can tell because it looks like a small bear.



A raccoon skull, side view

Notice in the front view that his left fang tooth and cavity is smaller.



out. Again we saw the Virginia Big-eared Bats on the ceiling and flying around.

There is a small passage leading off this room that goes out a back door. The problem with this is, sheep hang by the back door. Where sheep are, there's sheep dung. It makes for a slimy belly crawl. A few people went out this way.



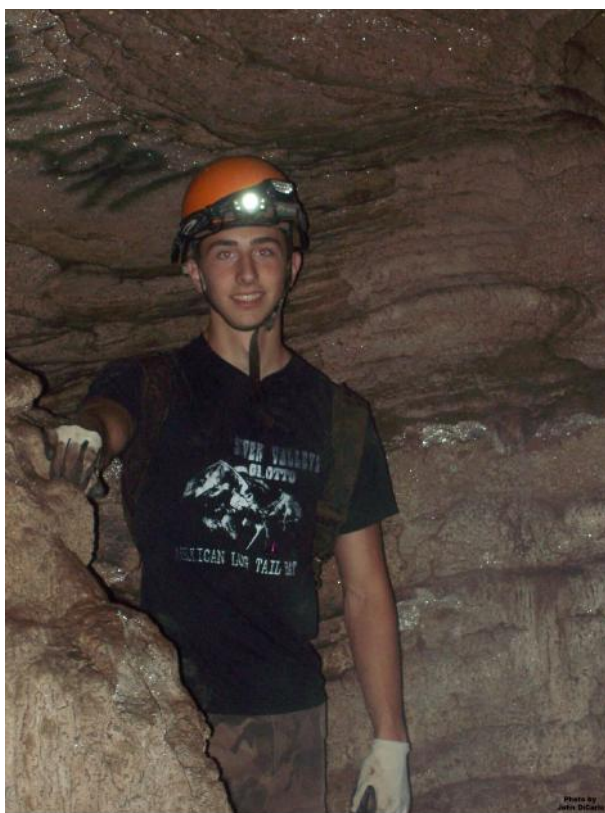
Amanda Malave

We made it out of the cave and started across the meadow. Someone said they could hear Bob yelling. I yelled back and it wasn't long before he popped out of the woods. A little while later others followed him out. He said they got lost in the woods. They had exited through the back door of the cave. It opened up over the next ridge. It was all forest. One of the young lads said to follow him and he would lead them out of the woods. A little later he yelled out, "I found another cave!" He had looped around and come back on the opening where they had come out.



Bob Bennett slimed

Most of our group turned around and headed out the way we went in. This gave us the opportunity to check out some of the other passages on the way



Mason Griffin

We crossed the meadow, the ridge, and the field, again making our way back to the cars. This was a great trip. It's rare to see a Virginia Big-eared Bat.



A kilt of a different color.

Nathan Roser

On September 21st I took a group of six to Gage Cavern in Schoharie County, NY. It's about a mile hike from the parking area to the cave and we ended up taking a wrong turn into somebody's back yard in the woods. Once we got to the 50 foot ladder at the entrance I set up a munter belay off a thick tree root and belayed everyone down. After rappelling in my friend Alex and I fired up the carbide lamps much to the delight of the newbies. We climbed down the entrance passage to the stream which was completely dry. I showed the newbies the little belly crawl we were going through and they're all like "No way!" but then everyone was quite ecstatic at the tubular passage beyond. We climbed our way up into the large amphitheater room and spent a good bit of time in there. The room has a large mud slope and someone left sleds in there so we went sledding down the mud slope. After this we climbed up to the far side of the room and into the mud sculpture area and then down into the Broken Room and the Balls Down Crawl. At this point the cave become a belly crawl in a stream and I was not wearing a wetsuit so I turned around. We then made our way back to the cave and exited. I had five first time cavers on the trip and they all loved it.

On September 29th I took a group of four SUOCers to Clarksville Cave. As we were getting dressed in the parking lot we ran into some local spelunkers who all had helmets and backup lights so I ended up talking with them for a half hour about how to find a grotto and get into the really nice caves since they had the right mindset to be responsible cavers. My friend Julian had taken after the Rockeaters and fashioned himself a homemade stereo that we carried through the cave with us. So the entire trip we had music playing which made for a lot of fun. We entered through the Ward Entrance and first headed upstream towards the Lake Room. A bunch of us went for a swim in the 45 degree water and crawled into a side passage that requires you to maneuver your crotch around a large pointy rock. The side passage is half filled with water and has a nice echo to it along with lots of chert and fossils.

After our little dip in the lake we headed back downstream to the Gregory Section. I got everyone to go through the Corkscrew which requires one to go through it headfirst and twist onto your back through a downward squeeze.

After that we paid a visit to the waterfall and then headed to the Gregory Entrance. We passed through a nice quick ear dipper that got everyone soaked and from there the cave is some really nice walking passage by New York standards. After we left the cave we made a stop by Fox Creek Park in Berne, NY. A large surface creek flows down several cascades on the Onondaga Limestone here. I noticed water pouring out of a crawlway sized hole in the creek side and will come back to see if it is a going cave.

October 7th I went on a science oriented trip into the abandoned mine beneath to Howe Cave Quarry near Cobleskill, NY. The mine itself was a dolomite mine that was abandoned in the late 1800's after Portland Cement was invented, it is a series of rooms and pillars that cover a total of 11 acres. The active quarry located above the mine denies all access except to a certain local who knows practically everyone in the area with a cave on their land. I met with him at a local diner in Schoharie and then we set off for the mine. The entrance is a small hole in a wooden wall that leads down a concrete tunnel to a sketchy 30 foot ladder. Once off the ladder we went down to a stream that follows along some old pipelines. The entire stream floor is coated with flowstone and rimstone dams. We passed by some rusticles on the ceiling and then went to the main formation gallery where 2 foot long stalactites have formed in less than 200 years.

Below this is a beautiful display of pure white stalagmites and flowstone along with a dried pool full of spar crystals. We also saw an old wooden trough full of white shrimp, possibly cave adapted? Continuing upstream we came to a skylight the quarry blasted into the mine to take the water draining out of Howe Caverns. Along the skylight there are vugs in the rock with lots of strontianite deposits. From here we went to a pool which I am

planning on studying. The pool is fed by dripwater and is completely covered by spar crystals on the bottom. Some parts have what I believe to be aragonite, which is only confirmed in one cave in all of New York so this could be a significant find. There are also many calcite rafts, cave pearls, and moonmilk formations throughout the mine, all rarely ever found in local caves. We then went to an area of the mine where many gypsum needles have formed, also not found in any natural caves in the area. We then headed out but along the way you can still see donkey hoofprints and minecart tracks preserved in the mud, as well as rotting wooden barrels used to carry explosives when the mine was active. There are also large fractures in the ceiling with blocks of pure calcite up to 5 inches wide on all sides, and rusting pipes with clam shell shaped rust deposits that a SUOC friend of mine tells me are magnetic. Once we got out of the mine we walked over to the tunnel blasted into Howe's Cave and took a little walk into the wild part of Howe Caverns and saw the huge piles of bat bones in the room where White Nose Syndrome was first observed in 2006.

Who: Eric Berge, Earle Berge, Adam Nelson, Madison Student Union Outdoor Club and Boy Scout Troop 966.

When: 11-27-2012

Where: Hamilton Cave

Purpose: Beginners Trip

How Long: 5 hours

Highlights: Scouts went to the dig site in Hamilton, and took a look at the claw marks near the Rosillion Escalator. There were about 30 people and it was a nice slow trip.

Nov. 9-11

Camp trip in Memorial Day Cave (MDC) in Germany Valley

Corey Hackley, Carl Amundson, Terry McClanathan, Rick Royer, Scott Walquist

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Mopping up leads beyond camp in MDC. There are literally hundreds of leads in the cave which is currently over 21 miles long.

Corey and I entered Friday evening. The others had already entered earlier in the day. It was Corey's first trip to camp. Took us about four hours. Corey could have made it in a lot less but he had to wait on the old man (this weekend was my 63rd birthday). On Sat the five of us first travelled to an area called Canal Street where we split into two teams to survey leads. Rick and Corey mapped a short tight passage. Scott, myself, and Carl went to a lead requiring an aid traverse to reach. Scott, with Carl belaying, made short work of this by setting three bolts. We then surveyed a pretty easy passage which unfortunately looped around to another part of the Canal Street after about 100 feet.

We then went over to another section of the cave known as the Big Easy where Scott started a second bolt climb, but, unfortunately ran out of battery power for the drill before it was completed. Corey and Rick went to a tight lead which Corey opened, but it didn't go far.

It was only about 4 PM so we headed off to check other leads. Trading teams, Carl with Rick this time, while Corey Scott and I went back to camp. Carl and Rick surveyed a short muddy passage near the Pinnacle Room close to camp. Corey, Scott and I went off in another direction from camp to map a fissure passage connecting the tops of two high domes. This had been explored several years earlier but had never been mapped. A traverse leads around the first dome about 40' off the floor where a J-rappel is rigged. Corey ascended first, then me and Scott. Corey traversed over to the top of a second drop, went down part of it, and then the three of us mapped back to the top of the first dome, getting a bit over a hundred feet of survey.

Back to camp by around 10PM, dinner, and sleep. I got up early and left. I always need a big head start to make up for my slow pace. We were all out by around 10 AM Sunday.

I've been on two caving trips since the last issue.
Nathan Roser

Saturday, October 20th six of us in SUOC went to Purgatory Pit in Vermont. There was myself, Luke Mazza, Sonya Zielinski, Steven Kendrat, Maggie Steep, and James Douglas. We were in the cave for less than an hour because the sketchy climb up into the rest of the cave from the first room was a freezing cold waterfall. I attempted the climb and quickly bolted out of the cave from getting too cold, first time I've ever ran shivering from a cave. No one else went any further either so we climbed up the 80 foot entrance pit and then did some fooling around and rock collecting at a nearby marble quarry.

Saturday November 3rd four of us in SUOC went to Ella Armstrong Cave in Vermont. The was Steven Kendrat, Georgia Buscaglia, Brittany Fantasia, and I. This was Georgia's and Brittany's first vertical caving trip. Even though the cave is rather short we spent three hours in there due to a rather "fun" time negotiation the tight spots in the entrance crack and climbing over each other to reach the top of the 1st drop. We poked around in all the side passages in the cave and exited around 4 PM. Afterwards we did a little bit of urban exploring at this huge abandoned hotel from the 1920's in the town of Sharon Springs.

I attended an excellent karst biodiversity field trip on October 6 -7, 2012, sponsored by the Virginia Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Natural Heritage Program (NHP). The trip was led Wil Orndorff (DCR-Karst Program), with accommodations provided by Natural Tunnel State Park, in Russell County, VA. The group consisted of invited biologists, ecologists and conservationists with a lone geologist/paleontologist (me).

On Saturday we visited Unthanks Cave, in Lee County, VA. Unthanks is gated, and was owned by the Nature Conservancy, who donated it to DCR-NHP. It is currently managed by DCR-NHP, and there are very limited trips into it allowed due to the presence of numerous rare stygobiont species.

Unthanks is one of the large caves of Virginia, with miles of mapped passage. We spent about 4 hours in the cave, and made our way up to the Cathedral Room, where we saw the Unthanks Cave Snail, know only from this cave. We also discovered an unfortunate leakage into the cave of what appeared to be septic drain field overflow, which we named "effluent spring". The source of the effluent is being traced by VDEQ and DCR, and they have found the offending drain field owner, so with any luck the problem will be corrected soon.

On Sunday, we visited The Cedars Natural Heritage Area, also owned and managed by DCR-NHP. This amazing Lee County karst region contains numerous caves, including Surgener Cave, which we visited on Sunday afternoon. In Surgener we were lucky to see a colony of the endangered Gray Bats, as well as the rare and endangered Lee County Isopod. We spent about 2 hours in Surgener Cave, wading the walkable section of the stream passage.

Bob D.

10/26, James and I met up with Todd in Albuquerque and he led us to Sandia Man Cave. We were very ill prepared, with a light and a cellphone between us, but didn't go in far. We might have spent ten minutes inside, and only because it took that long to get a 'decent' photograph. The entrance to the cave, and at least as far in as we wandered, was heavily graffitied. We spent the rest of that day exploring the Sandia's a little, but no more caves.
Ehren Gieske

Oct. 4, 2012
Moses Tomb
Nikki Fox and Chris Coates attended the annual TAG Fall Cave-In in Georgia. The two bounced the 230-foot pit. Note: the tornado in 2011 has destroyed the mountain. Hiking up to it is torturous and unadvised.

Oct. 5, 2012
War Eagle Cave

Nikki Fox and Chris Coates took Aaron Moses and Will Gilrain to the cave with a 137-foot entrance pit. The group went to each end of the cave via the Roaring River and saw Formation Row. It was a 6-hour sport trip.

Oct. 6, 2012
Norsman's Wells
Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Aaron Moses and Will Gilrain visited SCCi's Jacobs Mountain Preserve during the last two weeks it was open. We obtained a special permit to visit the cave. Good thing Nikki and Chris drove the Jeep down to TAG, because they 4-wheeled the entire way to the cave while on the property.

Norsman's is a wet multi-drop cave that follows the drainage down several drops (80, 97, 25, 41 and 18 feet) to the sump. We rigged the first two drops with one 300-foot piece of rope. We got out and back to the campsite just in time to attend the door prize drawings, where Nikki won a pair of Dirty Dave's knee pads and elbow pads!

Oct. 13, 2012
Memorial Day Cave
Chris Coates and Nikki Fox went to the GVKs weekend in Pendleton County, WV to survey in one of their project caves. They got 20 stations with 546.8 feet of new survey and spent a short 13 hours underground due to a grotto trip planned for the next day.

Oct. 14, 2012
Crossroads Cave
Chris Coates and Nikki Fox lead a sport trip for Madison University Student Grotto with three members in attendance. They did a loop in the cave, going through the Small Man's Shortcut, and also visited the Big Room. Spent 6 hours underground.

Oct. 27-28, 2012
Bat Ranch Caving Weekend
Nikki Fox and Chris Coates drive down to Giles County, Va., to attend the annual Halloween weekend at the infamous Bat Ranch.

On Saturday we led a trip (with 10 people in attendance) to Wilburn Valley Cave, which had a 110-foot pit inside the cave. We rigged two ropes, which was really one rope tied to the anchor on a bite provided by Kyle McMillan, and spend about 6 hours underground on the sport trip.

On Sunday, we rigged the entrance to Pighole, a 120-foot rappel. Several people just bounced the entrance and then went home. Only one person, Katie McConahy, went caving with us. Our mission was to find Queen Anne's Bathtub and after several dead-end passages, we found it and took some photos. Spent only 3 hours underground in the small cave.

Nov 3, 2012

Hamilton Cave

Nikki Fox and Chris Coates let a MUSG trip to Hamilton Cave. We took three members to the cave. Our objective was to find the formation room, labeled as the "Old Room" on the map. We had not been in the cave since WNS hit in 2008 when the Gilley Cave Preserve was closed. So it was rather interesting route finding in the mazy area, but alas, we in the Airblower.

One of the MUSG members, Nate, actually tried to go through it, and succeeded! So we sent the largest person next through, and he made it too. It was official, we were now doing an Airblower trip. We explored most of the unknown (to us) passage beyond and visited all the large rooms. After the group made it through the Airblower going back out, we trucked towards the entrance in a speed fashion, and had a great 8 hours underground!

Nov. 10, 2012

Savannah Sink Cave

Chris Coates attended the regular WVACS weekend & the annual WVCC banquet. He and Mark Minton worked on a bolt climb to reach the waterfall passage in the Big Room. They spent 7 hours underground in the new project cave.





GAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 11TH - DECEMBER 22ND



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Nov 11  VETERAN'S DAY | Nov 12 | Nov 13 | Nov 14  MEETING 7PM NOMINATIONS | Nov 15 | Nov 16 | Nov 17 |
| Nov 18 | Nov 19 | Nov 20 | Nov 21 | Nov 22  THANKS GIVING | Nov 23 BLACK FRIDAY | Nov 24 |
| Nov 25 HAMILTON CAVE-SEE EARL SUITOR | Nov 26 | Nov 27 | Nov 28 | Nov 29 | Nov 30 | Dec 1 |
| Dec 2 | Dec 3 | Dec 4 | Dec 5 | Dec 6 | Dec 7 | Dec 8 |
| Dec 9 | Dec 10 | Dec 11 | Dec 12  MEETING 7PM ELECTIONS | Dec 13 | Dec 14 | Dec 15  ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6PM |
| Dec 16  CHRISTMAS CAVING | Dec 17 | Dec 18 | Dec 19 | Dec 20 | Dec 21 | Dec 22 |

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Mighty Fine Art at Baker Quarry (Anya Crane)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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