

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**CHRIS RAPPELLING IN FAREWELL HOLE,
VAN BUREN CO. TN**

VOL. #28

ISS. #2

FEB

2013

#15



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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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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (Non-NSS)
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
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(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 Nikki Fox
 at Farewell Hole, Van Buren Co, TN.

**** 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!



CAVE EVENTS

2013

FEB 2 ----- GROUND HOG DAY
FEB 3----- SUPER BOWL
FEB 9 ----- Whittings Neck – see Andy C.
FEB 9 ----- Whittings Neck – see Tom G.
FEB 11 ---- VETERAN'S DAY
FEB 12 ----- FAT TUESDAY
FEB 13 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
FEB 14 ----- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 18 ----- PRESIDENT'S DAY
MAR 1 ----- DAY of PRAYER
MAR 2 ----- Mystic Cave – see Bob B.
MAR 10 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MAR 13 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAR 16 ---- Mystic Cave – see Vitas E.
MAR 17 ---- ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 ---- SPRING EQUINOX
MAR 22 ---- WORLD WATER DAY
MAR 25 ---- MD DAY
MAR 29 ---- GOOD FRIDAY
MAR 31 ---- EASTER
APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 10 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
APR 13 ---- Powder Horn – Scouts – see Bob B.
APR 15 ---- TAX DAY
APR 22 ---- EARTH DAY
APR 26 ---- ARBOR DAY
MAY 1 ---- Deadline for discount for Spring VAR
MAY 3-5 -- Spring MAR – Woodward Cave, PA
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 8 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAY 11 -- ADAM STEPHEN DAY
MAY 12 -- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 17-19 -- Spring VAR – Hosted by Tri-State Grotto –
Buckskin Scout Camp, Pocahontas Co, WV
MAY 18 ---- Appalachian Cave Conservancy 35th Anniversary
MAY 18 ---- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 24-27 -- KY Speleofest, Great Saltpetr Cave
Preserve
MAY 27 ---- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 7-9 ---- Bubble weekend – Nancy Hanks
JUN 12 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
JUN 14 ---- FLAG DAY
JUN 16 ---- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 ---- WV DAY
JUN 21 ---- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 24-29 -- WV Cave Week
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 10 ----- TSG meeting – 7pm
JUL 12-14 -- Karst-O-Rama
JUL 13 ---- TSG Picnic – Crystal Grottoes Cavern –
12 noon

JUL 28 ----- PARENT'S DAY

AUG 2-3 --- Convention Pre-Camp in Williamsport, MD –
Hosted by Tri-State
Grotto

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

AUG 14 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm

AUG 29-31 – OTR

AUG 31 ---- Doo Dah Parade – 10am

AUG 31 ---- Polyester Power Hour – 1:00 pm

SEP 2-3 ---- OTR

SEP 3 ----- LABOR DAY

SEP 8 ----- Grand Parent's Day

SEP 11 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm

SEP 22 ---- AUTUMNAL EQUIUNOX

SEP 27-29 -- Fall MAR – Lincoln Caverns, PA

SEP 29 ---- World heart Day

OCT 9 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Annual Auction

OCT 10-13 -- Fall TAG Cave-in – Lookout Mt, GA

OCT 14 ---- COLUMBUS DAY

Oct 19 ---- Bridge Day

OCT 31 ---- ALL HALLOW EVE

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the Conservancy of choice. The money SHOULD NEVER be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of January ----- **\$16.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5337.00**

The money was sent to SCCI!

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/

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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
 Tri-State bulletin Board:----- <http://wobey.net/phpbb2>
 Tri-State Photo Gallery: ---- <http://wobey.net/gallery>



MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Erek Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Kathy Byrkit, Vitas Eidukevicius, JD Hicks, Carrie Marcum, Todd Zimmerman, Logan Birkhimer, Barry Duncan, Terri Griffin, Billy Payne, John Payne, Tyler Ward, Tyler Wooten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Tri-State Grotto Meeting January 9, 2013

John called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Jerry gave the treasurer's report.

Old Business: Spring VAR - JC gave his report on VAR. - May 17-19

Pre NSS Convention Camp - Jerry gave a report on the camp. It will be held near Williamsport, MD - \$10/person It will be held Fri, Aug 2 & Sat, Aug 3 - Check in starts 1PM on Fri.

Adam Stephen dig - Sat, Jan 12 starting at 9AM.

Crystal Grottos dig - Sat, Feb 16 starting at 10AM.

Bob gave a report on looking for Grotto headlights.

New Business: Vitas gave a report on setting up a Bulletin Board & a Photo Gallery for the Grotto.

Corey talked about Tanglefoot Cave, MD. They did the 1st through trip - 430' of vertical.

Corey also talked about Norbourn Cemetary Caves.

Cave Bucks: \$16 - Send to SCCI.

Jerry adjourned the meeting at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Paulette Bennett, TSG Recording Secretary



Winchester man picked for Cave Board

January 23, 2013

Posted at 6:35 PM Jan. 7, 2013 | Updated: 6:27 PM

Jan. 7, 2013 | By Sally Voth

As a kid, Winchester resident Robert K. Denton Jr. was fascinated with geology and caves, and grew up to be a geologist. Now, he's one of the newest appointments to the Virginia Cave Board.

Denton was appointed to the four-year term by Gov. Bob McDonnell, according to a news release from the governor's office. Among the other five people appointed at the same time was Luray Caverns President and CEO John H.H. Graves.

The board consists of the director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and 11 appointees, according to the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation www.dcr.virginia.gov. In a Monday afternoon phone interview, Denton, a senior geologist at GeoConcepts Engineering Inc. in Ashburn, said he was nominated by people from the U.S. Geological Survey and DCR.

He said he's a certified professional geologist and a state-certified soil scientist. "[I] always have had a strong interest from childhood in geology, paleontology, and been a caver since I was a teenager," said Denton, a 17-year Winchester resident. "I'm excited about it."

The General Assembly set up the Cave Board in 1979, according to the DCR website. Its advisory functions include cave management, rescue operations, cave ownership laws, enforcement of the Cave Protection Act and a potential cave recreation plan, according to the site. The board is tasked with protecting caves' minerals, archeology, life, groundwater flow and unique characteristics, according to the site. Denton said he wanted to have a role in protecting caves' natural resources and groundwater.

While the greatest number of caves are in southwest Virginia, he said, the Shenandoah Valley is home to

many. "There's certainly lots of caves [that] have been found and mapped in Frederick County, although most of them are smaller," Denton said. "The thing is, they find caves when they blast open a quarry or something like that. There's a lot of underground passageways." Hundreds of caves have been mapped or located in Warren and Shenandoah counties, he said, while in Clarke County, most of the caves are filled with water. "Both Warren and Shenandoah Counties have tour caves," Denton said.

While it has since closed again, he is quite familiar with Crystal Caverns in Strasburg. "I used to be the curator of Crystal Caverns," Denton said. "I was the one who got it open for the Bernstein family back in 1998." The caverns had originally opened to visitors in 1933, and opened and closed a few more times before 1998, he said, and closed once again in 2010. Denton said he is currently working with the cave board to come up with a standardized method for doing karst assessment for developments, similar to environmental due diligence that is done.

According to the DCR website, the board meets at least three times annually at various locations, and its next meeting is Feb. 16 in Richmond. Contact staff writer Sally Voth at 540-465-5137 ext. 164, or svoth@nvdaily.com.



"Tanglefoot is an ongoing project and access is sensitive. The cave is one of the most physically demanding in the east, and hence is not suited for recreational caving. For more information regarding the project, please contact Corey Hackley."

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Tanglefoot

9/25/11

After a full day of caving on Saturday, Ryan and I were a little slow to get started on Sunday morning. Even with a reasonable meeting time of 11-something, we were still a bit late getting to Dave's house. Rain had been intermittent and unpredictable through the morning, and we crossed our fingers that it would clear up as the day went on.

We helped Dave load his truck with the bikes, and notably, the generator. True, it was small, as promised, but it is important to remember that small in the world of generators is still pretty big by most other standards. Dave estimated it weighed about 80 lbs and that seemed about right.

In short order, we were at the parking area attaching the generator and drill to Dave's cart, along with assorted rock-breaking paraphernalia. Ryan bravely volunteered to tow the cart, and found it to be possible, though perhaps not easy. Dave bravely chose to ride the lady's bicycle, which, with its low seat, made his knees bow out considerably. I bravely chose to follow. Unfortunately we didn't pass many other bikers, but the ones we did pass looked a bit confused. After a bit we were walking up the mountain with the generator and everything else on the cart on aluminum pipes on our shoulders. This was probably the most demoralized part of the trip. We made frequent stops, rotating positions on the pipes and carrying our load in 50' to 100' chunks. At the cave though, we were greeted with the welcome encouragement of the air roaring into the cave. If you could get a leaf to catch the draft at the entrance, it would flutter away into the darkness when you let go of it in less than a second.

No sooner had we set down our tools and taken a few deep breaths did we hear a four-wheeler engine approaching. Ryan and I stayed by the entrance while Dave went to intercept. We waited anxiously. After a few minutes Dave came back up the ravine accompanied by an elderly but spry gentleman, machete in hand. It was clear immediately that there hadn't been any misunderstandings, and our visitor was merely curious to see what we were working on. He turned

out to be a landholder for the property, a valuable contact for us to make. Operations got underway, and after a few holes I went inside to see what was next. Our goal for the day was to get Dave in and get a reasonable feel of what lay ahead. Previously, Ryan had stopped just short of a vertical joint. I slithered down to said joint and found that it was impossible to get into it without some modification of a horizontal constriction immediately preceding it. After chipping at it a little and determining that it would take some drill work to get through, I went back up the slope and started working with Dave and Ryan on the entrance constriction. From my side, I was able to drill some good holes in some rock that they couldn't quite get from the front. After a couple hours of hard work, we had the thing open legitimately. Dave slid in easily, and we moved to the next constriction. We drilled a few holes, and with a few chips I was able to force myself into the joint ahead. My feet found a small ledge in the joint below, and from this ledge to the ceiling I had just enough room to stand. Beneath my feet was a small aperture; adjacent to it was another hole. Both led down to an apparent room below. With a little painstaking hammering I felt I could slide down into the room. I'd also dropped my hammer down the hole (oops.) Not wanting to scoop another's booty, so to speak, I called up to see if an evaluative look ahead was warranted. Always gracious, Dave and Ryan gave the go-ahead, and I slipped down into the first leg of what may yet prove to be a major MD cave. In the next paragraph, I'll try and give a good impression of what I saw.

From the drop, the cave opened into a small, elongate chamber. On the west wall, a low opening led down a slope and into going passage. I had gotten a crash-course in bed recognition from Ryan the other day, and with that behind me, the stratigraphy in the cave was an open book. The ceiling of the entrance passage we had been working on was an interesting conglomerate, presumably Mauch Chunk, while the floor was deer valley limestone. The joint had dropped though the majority of the DV, and the passage I found myself in was very clearly floored on the dipping contact layer, here a striking blue-green sandy shale. The

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character of the cave had quickly changed from dry, dusty, tight joints in the DV to wet, active contact cave. Though no true stream was evident, it was obvious that a stream often flowed across the floor, and sand and cobble strewn about was a clear testament to this fact. The smooth rock floor remained damp enough to soak through my pants. The passage is bright red with wet, residual clay. The walls are generally indeterminate, in heavily jointed rock, often dislocated. The passage continued down-dip at comfortable dimensions for maybe 20 feet, before entering a small snug area between blocks. On the other side of this nuisance constriction, the cave enlarged again, for perhaps another 25 feet, still clean washed, before entering another constriction. This constriction looked about 1' high, and was developed along a bedding plane. Passably low, gravel bottomed passage was visible ahead. I decided here that it was obvious we had going cave, and made my retreat. Near the bottom of the entrance joint, I noticed a hole in breakdown and made a brief fore to see where it went. To my surprise, it dropped down into another legitimate infeeding passage, morphologically similar to the one I had just exited. A hole in the floor led into a drop of perhaps 6', apparently an intermittent waterfall. , opening immediately into a nice standing room. A tight lead was visible down-dip. Again, I turned around, also forgoing a possible lead or dig going parallel to the overlying stream valley, and upstream. All told, I would say I saw about 80' of cave.

With this report, we went to work at the 2nd constriction with renewed vigor. While I tried to enlarge the joint, Dave heroically wrestled a huge sandstone slab back upwards towards the entrance. Then Ryan took a shift chipping away at the uphill side while I worked on the downhill side with the drill. By this point, our energy was seriously depleted, everyone having given tanglefoot their all. There was easily another session involved to enlarge both the second constriction and the joint, so our hopes of having done with the generator were shot. It was about 8:00 now, and time to call it a night. We undertook the absurd task of carrying the generator back down the mountain. The comparative ease of carrying the thing downhill as

opposed to uphill was more than compensated for by our exhaustion. Stumbling back onto the trail, we readied and mounted our steeds, riding victorious into the night.

The cave was reminiscent to me, on a smaller scale, of low dip contact cave such as is seen in southern WV. It was certainly gliding right down-dip, deep into the mountain, and I see no reason why it should stop. Air was very complicated, going many directions: up, down, over, under, in, out. Water seemed to be rapidly coalescing, pirated from the dry stream course above. There was evidence of faulting near the entrance; perhaps this fault broke the clastics above and provided an easy point of entry for water from the stream above.

In summation, we worked our asses off and found a cave. Working with Dave and Ryan, I couldn't have asked for better digging partners. They display perseverance, ingenuity, caution, kindness, and a particularly heartwarming and familiar brand of psychotic mania. I'll be very, very interested to see what comes next.



Jan 19th

Tom Griffin, Shannon Griffin, Mason Griffin, Jared Morris (son in law), Jen Bach, Brent Miller

We all went to Donaldson's cave . We had 2 novice cavers with climbing experience, Brent and Jen. Shannon has been in many caves, she just has not been in about 4 years.

We were in about 2 hours since the cave was very much flooded. The water in the main lower passage was about 4 feet from the ceiling. First we went in to the left where all the break down was as a test of climbing down thru the rocks. All went well. Then we checked out the signatures. We went down the hall just a little ways until the water level was to much. We came back near the entrance and went down the little rabbit hole to the right of the entrance. It was a nice relaxing trip.

Brent and Jen went back, joined the NSS and Baltimore Grotto since they live near Baltimore. (Tom)

February 9th

We went to Whittings Neck

Tom Griffin, Cassidy Morris, Jared Morris, Brent Miller

We saw Vitas and his crew there. They were there probably an hour before us.

We took the scenic tour down the passage to the right just inside the cave then we went to the left of the wedding cake formation and went down that passage. It sounded like a lot of people were in the cave so we took our time. By the time we made it to the drop, Vitas's crew was working there way up. What we didn't realize was another group of 4 coming up. We listened to their conversation, it was not good. I used my safety to move down to the ledge to see if they needed a hand. 2 adults 2 kids about 10 to 12 years of age wearing headbands with lights. A fifth person at the top with a mag light. None of them had helmets . They had a very nice rope anchored correctly with no safety devices. The kids were soaked and cold. When they reached up they said they didn't have enough strength . This was all after asking them if they needed another

rope for a belay or an assist. They said no to that. With a little assist they were all on the way.

We strattled the canyon then climbed the face to the right where there were very nice rim pool clear and full. By the way the bottom of the drop had about 2 feet of water. After some photo ops we headed to the back of the cave. While returning and exiting the cave we ran into a scout troop and a group from Frederick Grotto. We were in about 4 hours. (Tom)

Sunday February 3rd, five of us in SUOC went to Cave Disillusionment in Herkimer County, NY. It was about 24 degrees outside when we got out of the car at the local Amish family's farm to ask them to cross their fields. The on the walk to the cave I slipped and fell down a small sinkhole. We got to the cave which is an unusually large entrance for New York. The cave consists of a vertical walled collapse sinkhole about 30 feet deep and 60 feet in diameter. Once at the bottom of the drop there is a standup shelter room and some small side passages leading off into unstable breakdown. We wanted to check it out today because on a previous trip there were some leads in the breakdown we did not push to the end due to a dead raccoon, and there was air blowing out of the cave. In the wintertime the cave entrance has a beautiful display of ice formations by the entrance. We crawled into the breakdown crawl by the raccoon, since last April it has decayed to the point of not smelling like rotting flesh and instead made the whole passage smell like musty fungi. I got my head past the coon and saw the cave dead ended. With that we backed out of the cave, if there's anything nice below the known cave Disillusionment is not the way in, too unstable. However, afterwards we went for a karst walk in the woods and found a line of sinks leading from the entrance to a spring about 2500 feet away. The spring had a small cave entrance about a foot high and two feet wide half full of water. We'll be back here in warmer weather to push this and see if we have some virgin cave. We also found a sinkhole taking a small stream into a hole in the bedrock. I put my ear up to the hole and could hear a low rumble inside. After this we headed across the rode into the woods behind the Amish family's house and found a stream falling into a little pit about 5 feet

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wide, 10 feet long and 6 feet deep. Both walls were blocked by thick ice so we'll save that for a warm day. All in all not much caving but we found a few spots that could get us into some virgin cave in a part of New York that hasn't been intensely explored. (Nathan)

Sunday February 10th a five person SUOC group consisting of myself, Maggie, Luke, Joe, Joey, Henry, Kim, and Nick went to Wolferts Pit and Baugh Cave. We rigged and did the two 40 foot drops going down Wolferts and got to the low airspace connection with Barytes Cave called Dead Bat Stew. We picked up the hoe stashed in the cave and did a bit of digging before climbing out. I went up last and partway up the second drop I heard a loud snap and dropped a bit. I also yelled a naughty word. Turns out as I was stepping up my foot loop snapped. Luckily the bottom end was still wrapped around my feet and the top part had enough tail left in it so I could tie them back together and keep climbing. The rest of us got out without incident. We then walked across the field to Baugh Cave. The first person to rappel in discovered the cave is a cold air trap in the winter time. At the bottom of the 50 foot entrance pit it must have been below 20 degrees while outside it was above 20. With that in mind we just had people yo-yo the pit instead of us all gathering down there and getting cold. When I came up Joe built a fire so we huddled around the fire until Maggie came up and then we de-rigged. After that we went back to the cars and headed into Cobleskill to get some pizza for dinner. (Nathan)

Went to Whittings Neck on Saturday 2-09 with a group of about a dozen kids & newbie parents. Did NOT go into the pit & beyond. Went in by the ladder entrance. The cave was a bit noisy & full of little caverats. (Andy B)

Josh, Joe and Adam went to Dead Dog Cave last Saturday, Jan 19th.

Went in, took poorly taken pictures, spent a lot of time route finding, and all agree we need to go back to finish the exploration. (Josh)

Spring 2013 VAR

Once again Tri-State Grotto is hosting Spring VAR. The event will be held at Dilley's Mill located in Buckskin Scout Reservation, near Cass and Marlinton, WV. The dates for this event will be 17th, 18th, & 19th of May. This is later than normal, but we've had to adjust to the Scout's schedule. We have lots of cave trips planned, plus lots of non-caving activities such as biking on the Greenbrier River Trail, Canoe or Kayak on the Greenbrier, and hiking.

To start off a great weekend, Tri-State's Chair – John DiCarlo – will host a bluegrass get-together Friday night, 7pm. The Theme will be Mammals.

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: Swago, Lightners, Billy Clay Pit, & Simmons Mingo.. Saturday night's dinner will feature Pit Barbequed pork, with all the fixings and drinks and we haven't forgotten you vegetarians. Saturday night speaker will be Corey Hackley. He will be speaking about Tanglefoot Cave in MD. 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. Front Royal Grotto to do their wonderful Sunday Breakfast.

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 is in the Spring Region Record.

If you have any questions contact Judy Fisher cavelady50@yahoo.com or call 304-258-4974.

Adam Stephen Dig

January 12, 2013

By John DiCarlo, NSS#25744

Martinsburg, WV - Tri-State Grotto returned to The Adam Stephen House <http://www.orgsites.com/wv/adam-stephen/> to again dig on the tunnels under the house. Adam Stephen had the house built over a cave entrance to have an escape route in case of Indian attack.

Our helpers were Russell Linton, Todd Zimmerman, Bob Bennett, Brent Jefferson, Keith Hammersla and John DiCarlo.



Bob Bennett pulling out a bucket of dirt

Todd Zimmerman slid down into the tunnel to start our dig. Very soon he had buckets ready to send up. John DiCarlo and Bob Bennett pulled the buckets up, as Russell Linton, Keith Hammersla and Brent Jefferson carried out the buckets. During the day everyone switched around. Well, almost. Todd Zimmerman distinguished himself by staying down in the tunnel and digging the whole time. He only came up for lunch.

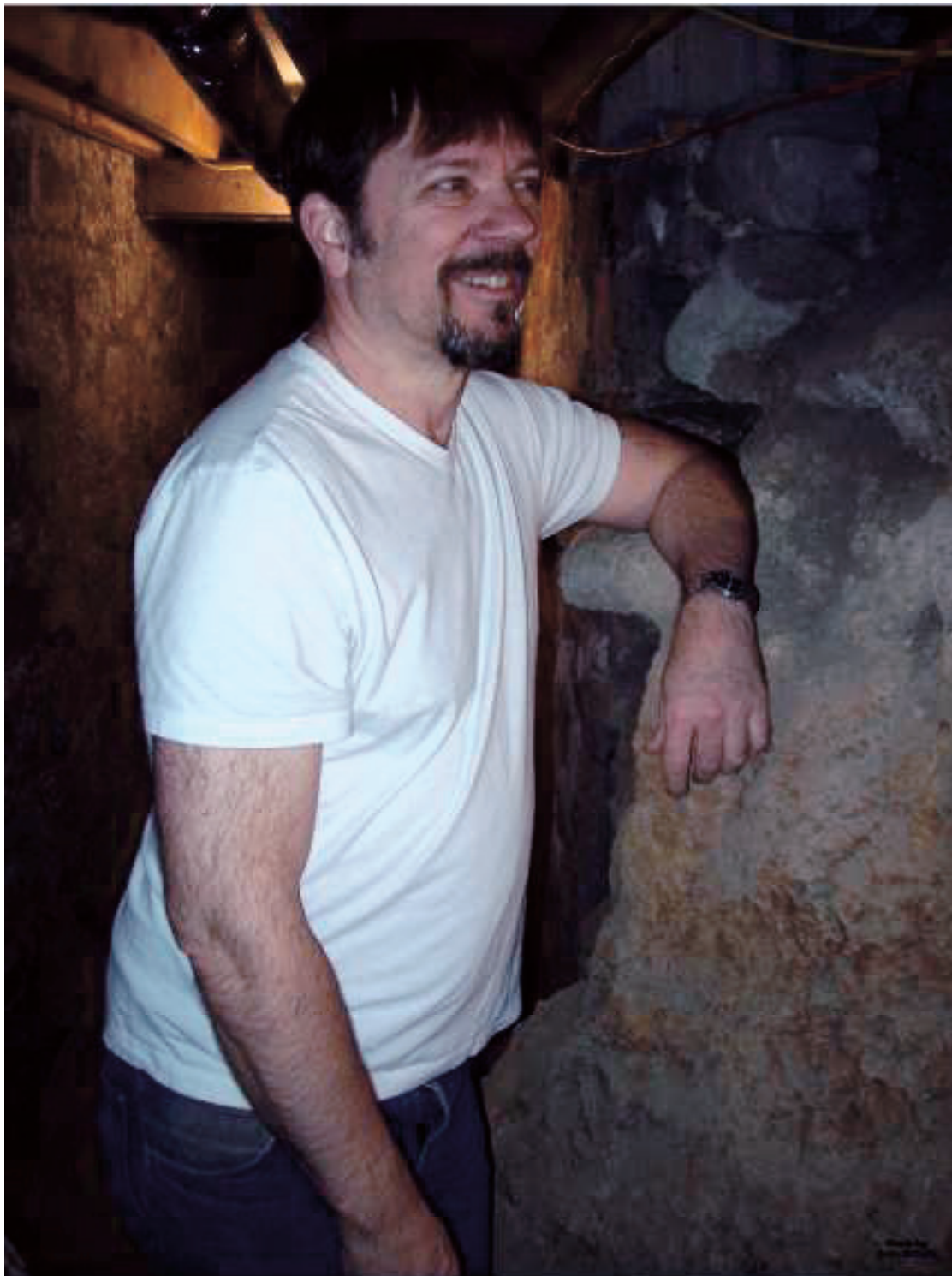


Russell Linton carrying out a bucket of dirt.

At one point Russell carried buckets while Brent and Keith looked over the house to see what repairs might be needed. A spot by the foundation has our attention.

Bob Bennett had dropped his lit LED flashlight down the tunnel opening when he was giving tours last May during Heritage Days. It came up in one of the buckets. Todd found it under two feet of collapsed dirt. Bob turned the switch off and set it down. Later in the afternoon he picked it up and turned it on. We were all surprised at how bright it shined. The batteries must have come back to life when Bob turn the light off.

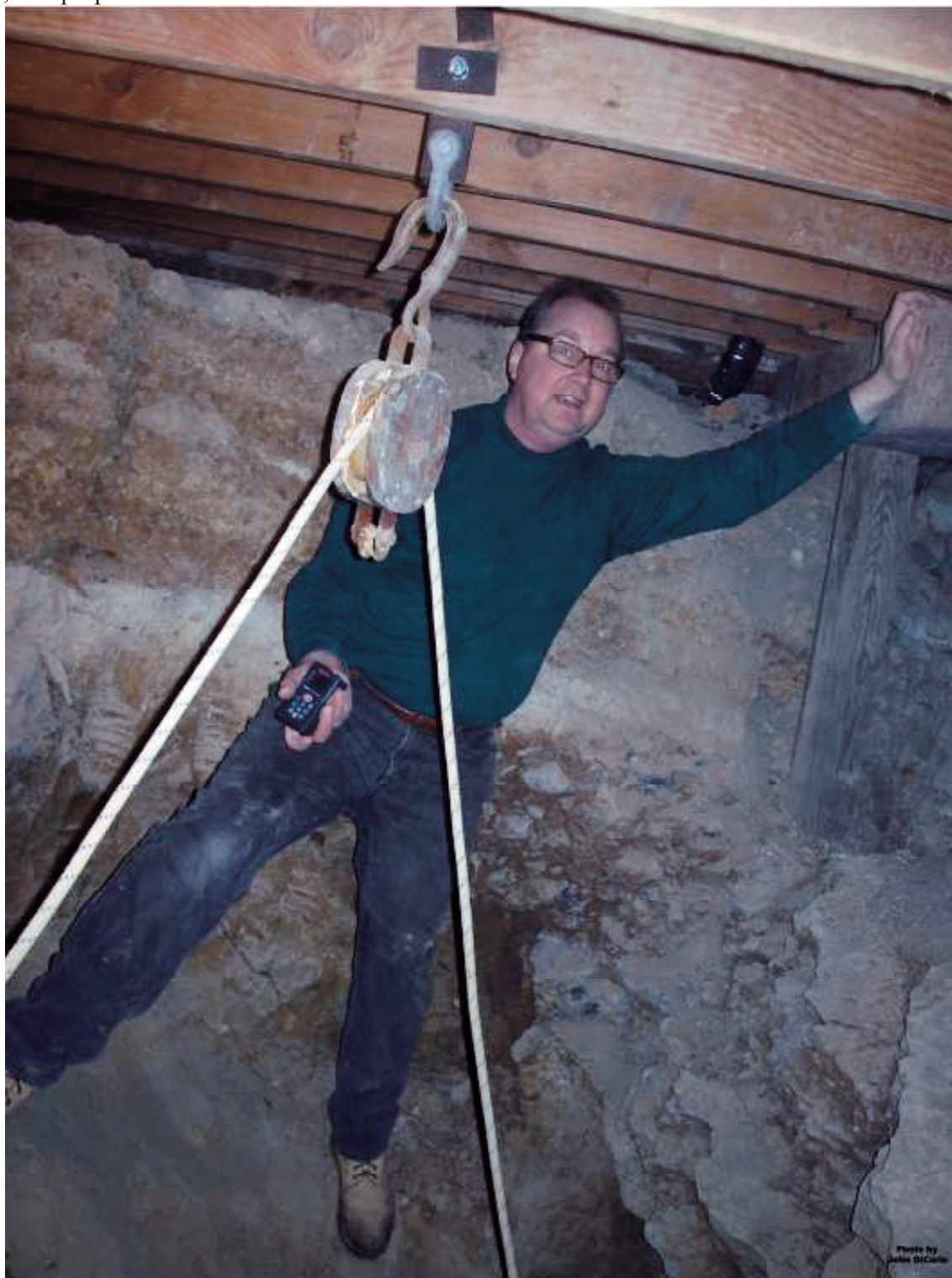
There was almost 50 five-gallon buckets of dirt taken out before lunch.



**Keith Hammersla waiting
for a bucket to carry out.**

Keith provided a lunch that was five-star or so I was told. I had to leave before lunch and returned afterwards. All I heard about was the lobster they had for lunch.

With Todd back in the tunnel, the buckets again zipped up and out. There was even a one gallon bucket that went down , camp up and out.



Brent Jefferson taking measurements.

Todd reported that we dropped the floor five plus feet that day. With precision instruments Brad and Todd measured 31 ½ feet deep from our spot at the top of the dig.



Todd Zimmerman climbing out of the tunnel.

One hundred twenty six 5-gallon buckets and one 1-gallon bucket were taken out. There were 42 volunteer hours worth \$820.00.



Alright everyone. Can anyone tell me whose foot this is!!!!!!!!!!



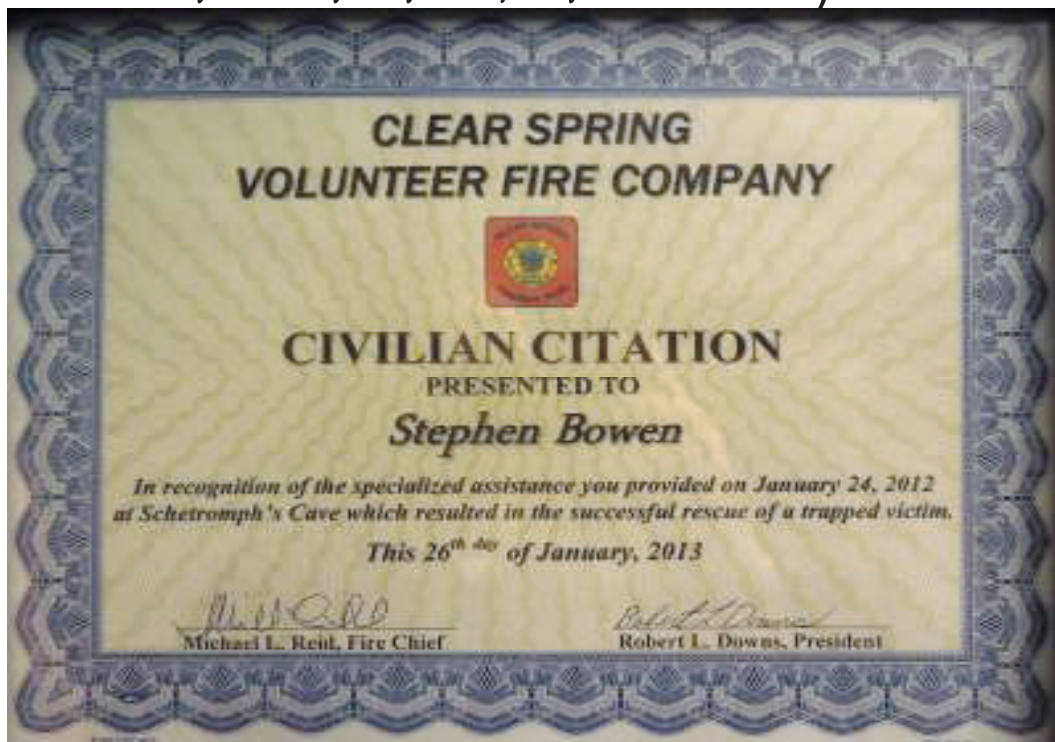
CAVIN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 10TH - MARCH 23RD



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 10	Feb 11 VETERAN'S DAY	Feb 12 FAT TUESDAY	Feb 13  Meeting 7PM	Feb 14  VALENTINE'S DAY	Feb 15	Feb 16
Feb 17	Feb 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23
Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1 DAY of PRAYER	Mar 2 Mystic Cave - see Bob
Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9
Mar 10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13  Meeting 7PM	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16 Mystic Cave - see Vitas E
Mar 17  ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20  EQUINOX	Mar 21	Mar 22 WORLD WATER DAY	Mar 23

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Stephen Bowen received this award for his actions in the rescue at Schetrompf Cave

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



Spring 2013 VAR
May 17th, 18th & 19th
Registration Form

Spring 2013 VAR will be held at Dilley's Mill located at Buckskin Scout Reservation. The Reservation is located off Rt 28 in Pocahontas County, WV, near Cass and Marlinton, WV.

Early registration by May 1st 2013 - Full = \$28.00 _____

Early registration by May 1st 2012 - under 15 years old = \$24.00 _____

On – site registration - Full = \$33.00 _____

“ -Under 15 = \$29.00 _____

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