

DEAR DOC DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO



VOL. #28

ISS. #10

NOV

2013

#123

WHAT?



(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 Terri
Griffin at the Atha Cave Dig....

**** 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!



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
Youth Chair ---- Eric Berge ----- 703-323-4528

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)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#28

I.#10

NOV

2013

#124

CAVING EVENTS

Month of November ----- **\$25.00**

2013

NOV 3 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 9 --- Sadie Hawkins Day
NOV 9 --- Atha Dig – see Tom or Bob
NOV 9 ---- WVCC Banquet – 7PM
NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
NOV 13 --- TSG meeting - Nominations – 7pm
NOV 16 ---- Adam Stephen dig – 9am
NOV 25 --- 1st Day Deer Season – WV
NOV 28 --- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 29 --- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 11 --- TSG meeting – Elections – 7pm
DEC 14 --- Grotto Christmas celebration – 6 pm – Bob & Paulette Bennett's home
DEC 15 --- Grotto cave trip
DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 --- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5469.50**

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 2014 ----- <http://nss2014.caves.org/>
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/>
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>

2014

JAN 1 ---- NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
JAN 20 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
JAN 24 --- TSG birthday
MAY 23-25 – Ky Speleofest
MAY 30-JUN 1 – SERA – NSS Hdqtrs
JUL 14-18 – NSS Conv – NSS Hdqtrs
OCT 10-12 – Fall TAG Cave-In
OCT 18 ---- Bridge Day

2015

JUL 13-17 --- NSS Conv – Waynesville, MO

2016

JUL 17-23 --- NSS Conv – Ely, NV

***** 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.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#28

I.#10

NOV

2013

#125

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Brooks Brogan, Pat Cronin, Nikki Fox, Tom Griffin, Terry McClanathan, Johnny Robinson, Jr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TRIP REPORTS

Adam Stephen Dig August 17, 2013

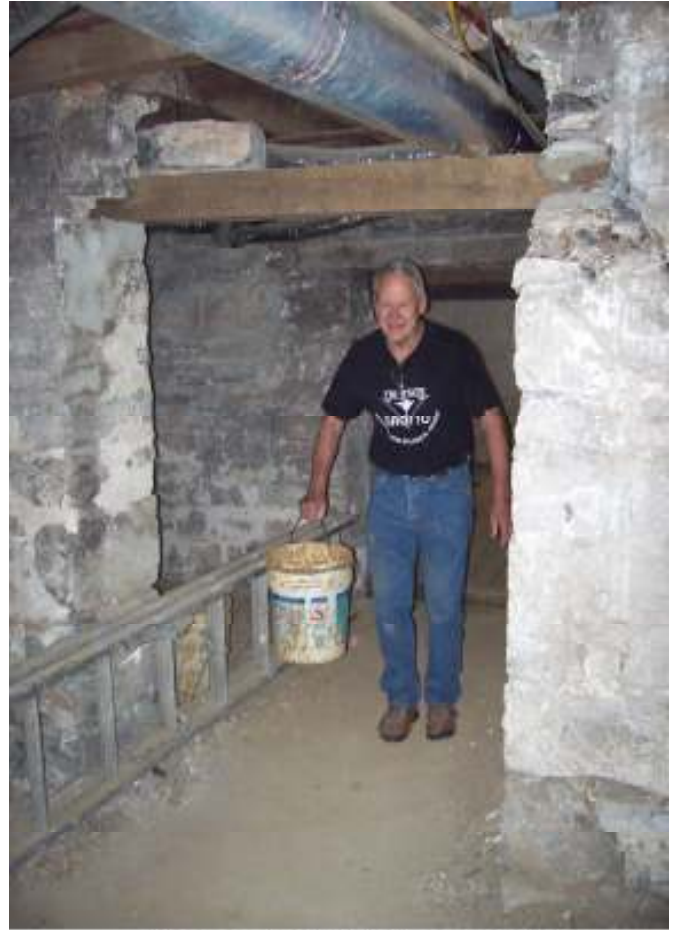
By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

Martinsburg, WV-Tri-State Grotto returned to the Adam Stephen house in Martinsburg, WW to continue our dig on the "Tunnels."



Here is a bucket being pulled out.

We started off by throwing the new guy, Dan Putt, down the pit. He started digging the clay that had fallen in since the last dig.



Russell Linton carrying a bucket back.

Nathan was pulling on the rope to bring the buckets up. Others were carrying out the full buckets.

When Dan had finished with the loose clay, Nathan slid down into the passage to help.



Nathan Rosser has a large rock in the bucket.

The digging continued with several of us rotating on the rope and carrying buckets.



Tom Griffin and Dan Putt, in blue, pulling up a bucket .

By lunch we had taken out 45 buckets of dirt. Nathan found what looked like maybe another horse tooth.



Todd Zimmerman watches Bob Bennett mark down a bucket that was taken out.

Lunch was good as always with everyone eating their fill.



Bob Bennett, left, and Jeff Marcum preparing their plates.



Some of our helpers eating lunch. From the left going clockwise, Bob, Russell, Nathan, Dan, Jeff, and Todd.

We have dug enough passage now that Tom said it was worth surveying. He and Bob Bennett set points and shot their lines.



Bob Bennett shoots an angle while surveying the dig.

They started outside over the dig site. Shooting their points, they moved around the house and through the side cellar door. Going through several rooms, they hit the top of the passage and headed down.



Tom Griffin surveying at the bottom of the drop.

During a break on digging Tom climbed down into the dig to get his measurements. This is the best picture that I have been able to take from the top. It is about 30 feet down.



Tom Griffin rides the elevator.

Throughout the afternoon several people went up and down the tunnel. If you wanted to dig, you were given the opportunity to.



Todd Zimmerman takes a break after climbing out of the dig.

Our total bucket count was 64 buckets. We had 10 volunteers: Nathan Roser, Tom Griffin, Dan Putt, Keith Hammersla, Bob Bennett, Jeff Marcum, Russell Linton, Todd Zimmerman and John DiCarlo. There were 70 volunteer hours worth \$1,400.00. Thanks to Jerry Downs of Crystal Grottoes who loaned us the use of his Makita jackhammer drill worth a \$60 rental charge we didn't have to pay.

Trips; Terry McClanathan

Nov. 2nd

Planned trip to Monster Cavern Room in Friars Hole but upon arrival Sat morning found that water was running into the pit. Large group present from Franklin County Grotto. Deemed conditions to be hypothermic inducing at bottom of pit especially with such a large group. We split up with FCG going off to Simmons Mingo while Mae Kile and Adam Byrd and I went pitting.

Our first stop was Grapevine. We bounced the historic 118 foot entrance pit and toured the wild section of the cave. Next we went over to Briar Pit. All three of us bounced and I yo-yoed this very nice 121 foot pit. I had plans with Corey for Sunday so I drove back home that night.

Nov. 3rd

Corey Hackley, Ryan Royce, and me
First stop was Warrior Mountain Cave in Allegany County. This is a major blowing lead found by Corey and Ryan after following up on a report of a blowhole provided by a hunter a couple of years ago. Since then Corey and Alli (maybe others) have removed enough rock to expose a blowing cave with presently about 60 feet of traversable passage. Corey wanted to see what the air was like on this crisp autumn morning. It was indeed blowing quite impressively. In fact when I was at the bottom of the entrance climb down I could see the air billowing over my head. Right now all leads are too tight, but that amount of air movement indicates big cave somewhere below. There's certainly lots of depth potential.

Corey also started digging on another blowhole about a quarter mile away, and on the way back to the vehicle Ryan found yet another small blower.

Our main objective for the day was Kites Cave in Mineral County, WV. While in college at Frostburg in the late sixties, I'd tried to find this cave but gave up while thrashing on the very steep mountain side with no clear-cut directions as to where the entrance really was. I decided to take Davies warning that the entrance was "in a dense woods and a guide is necessary to find it" (p. 160 of Davies Caverns of West Virginia) to heart and never tried again. So when Corey informed me that he and Ryan had been to the cave a year or so back, my interest was rekindled. Furthermore, Corey had located a blowing lead in the cave and wanted to return to work on it.

We didn't arrive at the entrance until mid-afternoon. The entrance is in a semi-vertical sink. I taped the drop at 38 feet but the bottom portion can be bypassed by a climb. I followed Corey into a fair-sized room (not shown on Davies map in Caverns of West Virginia) but he'd already disappeared into a tight ugly crack which lead to his lead. Ryan soon caught up and went in after Corey. There was minimal room in the passage before the lead so I opted to tour the cave first. I saw about 400-500 feet of passage alternating between short crawls and walking breakdown canyon. All in all not a bad cave.

After a bit over an hour I returned to where Ryan was keeping Corey company. To access this spot required some typical Corey maneuvers: in other words tight, gnarly, and not very pleasant. Ryan was waiting in a small alcove as Corey's lead was not very roomy. Soon Corey announced that he was through, but the passage became too tight again after about sixty feet. A bit disappointing, but at least another cave lead could be crossed off the list. We exited the cave to darkness and started the long hike back to my car. A late supper at Lavale Pizza Hut and back home by 10 PM. A good day.

Memorial Day Cave Adventures

Adam Byrd, Mae Kyle, and I went on a nice trip into Memorial Day Cave (MDC) this past weekend. Over the last ten years discoveries in Memorial Day have been rivaling those in her more famous Germany Valley neighbor Hellhole. Total passages are in the 24 mile range. There are long impressive boreholes, big rooms, lots of pretties, and at present 17 pits or domes exceeding 100'. This last includes Flying Dutchman Dome, currently second biggest in the state at 303'. There are also three other 200+ foot pits. So there are lots of rewards for the explorer in MDC. Rick Royer, Pete Penczer, and Scott Walquist are the main stalwarts and general project leaders. Each has probably logged nearly a hundred trips. Many other cavers are also actively involved and have contributed significantly to the present status of the cave through surveying, digging, bolting, and photography.

This past weekend there was even a massive dive attempt with quite a few cavers serving as support and sherpas. The cave is gated, access is controlled, with activity only during the GVKs (Germany Valley Karst Survey) work weekend which is every second weekend of each month. New blood is welcome with just a few political hoops to jump through. The cave is physically demanding and access to many sections is technically challenging as well.

This would be my 27th trip in MDC. What can I say? I like the pits and it's a great cave. Neither Adam or Mae had seen much of the FLAD section of the cave. This area has been expanded just within the past two years and has become one of the major branches of MDC, as well as one of the most impressive. Also Adam had a lead we could survey to add some measure of legitimacy to our otherwise mostly tourist trip.

The entrance area of MDC consists of a series of climbs, crawls, and canyon passage leading to the first pit, a nice drop of 49'. This is followed by an awkward narrow canyon crawl dubbed "Puppet Buster". The crawl has been modified to make it "friendlier", and now contains only two nasty spots

where it is necessary to wedge yourself in the top of the keyhole while being careful not to allow gear or body to become wedged in the deepening crevice. At the end of the "Puppet Buster" you are perched at the top of the main drop accessing the first MDC borehole. This drop is 117 feet deep with a hanging rebelay about sixty feet down. Since MDC is a project cave and the many drops are permanently rigged, rope ware is a problem. All drops are rigged European style with rebelays and traverse lines to minimize the risk of rope fray. The 117 drops you into Columbia Canyon. The main canyon goes for about 4000 feet to the original camp. In the other direction the canyon soon leads to an up-rope climb of about 70 feet. In the last few years Chris Coates and Nikki Fox have spearheaded efforts in exploration and survey in this area resulting in a couple miles of new cave and an eventual connection to Ruddle Cave, which is so far the only other entrance to MDC.

Access to FLAD is along Columbia Canyon enroute to the original camp but less than a thousand feet from the base of the 117. A rope climb of about 20 feet leads to an upward trending passage which appears to end in a collapse. Scott Walquist did a short aid climb here which eventually lead to the discovery of the FLAD Borehole just a couple of years ago. This borehole is a nice mostly walking passage for about a thousand feet which ends in a vertical wall of boulders.

Adam's lead was near the beginning of the borehole in a small drippy dome. Some quick exploration revealed that a short passage off the bottom of the dome lead up into known passage off the borehole. We mapped this in only five stations, getting a bit under one hundred feet of survey. Work done, we proceeded with the tour.

Aaron Moses was the first to climb the boulder wall at the end of the borehole, and he has since rigged it with rebelays to avoid most of the contact with the vertical "wall of death". Beyond is one of the more airy parts of the cave. A massive breakdown bridge spans a huge void of darkness. A ten foot rope climb puts you on top of this bridge. The voids on either side drop 139 feet to the bottom of a large

canyon dubbed "Flad the Inhaler",so named for the never ending air flow present.

The bottom of the canyon didn't do much, but Aaron initiated a series of bolting feats across the top which lead to major finds. At present this area is accessed via a very airy J-rappel out over the 139 foot deep canyon which puts you on a partition between the canyon and a high dome. Aaron climbed this 108 foot dome, now rigged and with one hanging rebelay about 70 feet up. At the top a steep flowstone climb leads to another pit. Aaron put in a traverse line around this (it looks hairy but is not really too bad). The traverse ends with a 25 foot rappel into a window leading down into an amazing formation gallery. This gallery is one of the best decorated in all of Germany Valley (so far that is). It's full of massive, pristine white columns, flowstones, draperies, stalagmites, rimstones, broomsticks and more, and is about a hundred feet long.

At the end a rappel of about twenty feet drops into a drippy dome which serves as the water source for a second camp in FLAD. A steep climb leads up to camp just a short distance away. Corey Hackley told me about a nice lower level passage found about a year ago only a little ways beyond camp. We located and toured this very fine mostly walking tunnel. It was profuse with various gypsum deposits and a number of "Christmas trees". The floor was nearly flat and it was a joy to traverse. It ended in a terminal room with a very low crawlway going left off the top. I looked into this and saw a survey marker about twenty feet down. Seemed like a typical Corey passage, low and tight. We didn't tour this.

Back in the main passage, we continued to a rigged drop of around sixty feet total down a mud wall to a wet dome. Up the other side is a roped climb of about 25 feet. On a previous trip Corey was treated to a surprise when the dynamic rope used to rig this drop suffered a sheath separation giving Corey a reverse climb as he slid about ten feet back down to the floor. At that time we used an extra rope we had with us for the final drop to rerig this pit in a more conventional manner.

The final destination for our tour was a deep pit located about 2000 feet beyond the FLAD camp. This pit is called Trapped Door Well, and when Corey and I mapped it on an earlier trip we got a taped depth of 221 feet, making it the new deepest "from the top" drop in West Virginia. All the bigger drops are dome climbs accessed from the bottom including Batman Dome (306') and Southwest Dome (247') in Hellhole, and the previously mentioned Flying Dutchman in MDC. There is also another high dome called Perserverance in Hellhole which will probably exceed 300', but it hasn't been completed yet. Trap Door Well is rigged with three rebelay, the first one from the top is hanging.

Originally the bottom could not be reached with the length of rope available. A ninety foot section of a 400' rope I donated to the project, and which Corey carried in from the entrance (he was in training for a deep Mexico expedition) was used by John Harman on the initial descent to the bottom. This was subsequently removed for use elsewhere, so on this trip we brought a rope from camp to re-install below the last rebelay so we could get to the bottom of the pit. On this trip I went down to finish the rigging first. Then Mae dropped the pit. Adam bounced the pit last and retrieved the bottom rope which we returned to camp.

We exited the cave without incident, although slowly. The trip duration was 18 hours.

A few pics from Atha Cave Dig.



Photo by Bob B.



Photo by Bob B.



Photo by Ken Tayman



Photo by Ken T.



CAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 10TH - DECEMBER 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 10	Nov 11  VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12	Nov 13  Meeting 7pm Nominations for Officers	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16 Adam Stephen Dig 9am
Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23
Nov 24	Nov 25 1ST DAY DEER HUNTING WW	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28  THANKSGIVING	Nov 29 BLACK FRIDAY	Nov 30
Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7
Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11  Meeting 7pm Elections	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14  ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6PM UNTIL ?
Dec 15 GROTTO CAVE TRIP	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21  SOLSTICE

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



ANNUAL GROTTTO AUCTION

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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



TO:



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#28

I.#10

NOV

2013

#134