

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



PERSINGER CREEK, PERSINGER CAVE

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#97



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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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*** The photo was taken by Nikki Fox in Persinger Cave, Greenbrier Co, WV.

**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **STILL** available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. If you don't have it in your library, then YOU MUST GET IT. It is PACKED with info about the QUARRY, the CAVE, the INDIAN BONES, and of course the **MAP!** If you are interested in purchasing the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT** [304-579-4304(H) or 304-725-3481 ext 491(W)](E-MAIL at gimpycaver@comcast.net or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at jcf@access.mountain.net)

WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

PROGRAM CHAIR
MEMBER at LARGE

PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



CAVE EVENTS

2013

***** 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 September----- **\$15.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5422.50**

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 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>

SEP 1-2 ---- OTR
 SEP 2 ---- LABOR DAY
 SEP 8 ----- Grand Parent's Day
 SEP 4 ----- Apollo Theater – 6:30 pm
 SEP 11 ----TSG Meeting – 7pm – Slide show on Endless
 Caverns off trail by Dave Lucas
 SEP 11 ---- PATRIOT'S DAY
 SEP 12 ---- Apollo Theater – 6:00 pm
 SEP 22 ---- AUTUMNAL EQUIUNOX
 SEP 27-29 – Fall MAR – Lincoln Caverns, PA
 SEP 27-29 – Fall VAR & YTR – Poor Farm Campground,
 Greenbrier Co, WV
 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
 NOV 3 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
 NOV 9 --- Sadie Hawkins Day
 NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
 NOV 13 – TSG meeting - Nominations – 7pm
 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 --- Christmas caving
 DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE
 DEC 24 --- CHRISTMAS EVE
 DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY
 DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2014

JAN 1 ---- NEW YEAR'S DAY
 JAN 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
 JAN 20 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 JAN 24 --- TSG birthday



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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>
2013 NSS Convention ---- <http://nss2013.caves.org>



MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Susan Bly, Twila Bracken, Art Hanson Sr,
Bill Jones, Karen Kehs, Ann Muldoon,
Nathan Roser, Cheryl Suitor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



TSG Picnic Sat, July 13, 2013

The annual Grotto summer celebration was held on Sat, July 13 at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. We had really nice weather, great food, and 2 trips through the cavern. We picked up one new member and one member renewed their membership. We had 22 people in attendance.

Memorial Day Cave

On August 9th-11th I camped in Memorial Day with Rick Royer to survey above the Gypsum Sand Borehole J-hang. We managed to get 500 feet of survey in 36 stations and ended the survey day with three going leads all hands and knees crawling size or larger. Total trip time was 41 hours. Nathan Roser

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Shoveleater / Hell Hole

Saturday September 7th, Lewis Carrol, Victor Ursu, Brian Masney, Jon Lillestolen, and I did an 11 hour trip into Hellhole through Shoveleater in an attempt to dive the southern sump of Hellhole. We hauled five bags of dive equipment and two tanks down to the 2007 Last Falls camp in Hellhole. Unfortunately Jon's buoyancy vest had broken on the way in and there was no dive this trip. But almost all the dive gear is less than 1 hour from the sump and the next trip will be an easy one to get the gear to the sump for Victor and Jon to do the dive and hopefully extend Hellhole to the south. Nathan Roser

Benedicts Cave Trip Report

July 4, 2013

by Nikki Fox

Chris Coates and I got a late start leaving our house during the July 4th holiday weekend to project cave in Greenbrier County with other WVACS members. On Thursday we arrived at an empty Fieldstation and began to unload our vehicle. It was in the afternoon, so we did not have much time to devote to a project trip, so we decided to go on a sport trip to Persinger's Entrance to Benedicts Cave.

Benedicts Cave is a cave that we've never been to and have wanted to do a through trip for some time. So we geared up and began to go underground via the tight crawl way around 3 p.m. We entered the crawl feet first, feeling the way down the small-person passageway. It was not far into the cave when we entered the main borehole and the Persinger Creek passage.

Armed with a map, we tried to navigate this multi-level cave to the Benedict Entrance. The map was nice to have, but was hard to read since the levels are not offset, but stacked on top of each other, in the map. Through trial and error, we eventually found ourselves on the right track walking in Mediocre Creek. We followed the tall, canyon passage downstream until we reached a small crawl.

Upon further investigation, it looked like a belly crawl in the water. Not having waterproof packs, we opted not to get soaked and headed back towards the entrance.

Along our way out, we explored several of the parallel passages and familiarized ourselves with that section of the cave. It was a nice, short four hour trip to say that we got underground for the Fourth of July.



Persinger Entrance (Nikki Fox)

Marion O. Smith and Sharon Jones pre-convention week. Terry McClanathan, Tuesday, July 30th

The three of us went to Poorfarm Pit, then up into Back side of Swago Creek area to look for some pits I knew Marion had never been to. Unfortunately I had not been to these in 25 years. One was horribly overgrown in a multiflora rose thicket and I judged the tiny entrance impossible to access. This was Beverage Pit(49') . Guess Marion will have to put that one on his non-vertical list. I was able to relocate the deepest of the Forgotten Pits... No. 1 at 59', so the three of us bounced that one. We then headed back to Bill Balfours house where Marion and Sharon had spent the previous night, and had a very pleasant sleep.

Wednesday, July 31st

Woke to a chilly rainy morning. Bill showed me the entrance to a pit I'd never done called Shale Bank Pit just across the road from Elevator Shaft. I bounced and taped this at 48' while Marion and Sharon headed into Lewisburg for breakfast. I then drove up to WVAS to meet Bruce Fries for a pre-arranged trip into Savanna Lane. We picked up Marion and Sharon and the four of us entered the cave after chatting with the owner for a bit. We took the easier more scenic passage enroute to the pit drop into the big room. For a detailed description of this passage see the feature article in the July News.

The drop into the big room was supposed to be around 80 feet. I seldom go to a new pit without the "lie detector". Sharon and I taped it at 82', a very impressive drop. Bruce checked out the water level in the big room and I tagged along behind while Marion and Sharon climbed back up the pit. Bruce noted that the water was still to high to allow pushing the breakdown blockage at the far end. We exited to a cloudy drizzily mid-afternoon.

The drizzle only lasted a short while. A new shower was picking up as I took Marion and Sharon to Shale Bank Pit. Marion couldn't remember if he'd been to Elevator Shaft or not, so I next took both across the road and up the hill to this pit. It's a very pretty 66 footer, but the rain was getting serious so we quickly bounced it and then headed up the road to Pendleton County.

Thursday, August 1st

Though both had been to Shoveleater years before, there was a lot discovered since then, so we opted for a nice tour of some of the more impressive parts of the cave. Checked out lots of the pretties in Harper Canyon and HA and HB passages. Bounced Skyline Drop, which at 162' is the second deepest pit in the Shoveleater portion of the system. Next we headed over to Washington County just in time for a nice supper prepared by my wife.

Friday, August 2nd, local stuff.
Checked out Schetromph which was heavily posted.
I assume this was backlash from the big rescue featuring Jerry and Steven Bowen as the heroes.
On to Whittings Neck. Went in collapsed sink entrance, back to drop which I taped at a maximum of 40', toured below drop, and went out main entrance. Encountered large group from Virginia. Mostly lads and lassies in the 10-14 age range with lead very capably by at least two young adults of different sexes. Leaders were emphasizing safety and team work. Kids were serious, attentive, polite, and having a great time. It was a real pleasure to witness all the positive interaction between them. We got out with some time to spare before our meeting with Corey, so we went on up to Indian River. The day was a bit warm but all in all pretty nice after the weeks earlier deluges.

Back at the parking area Corey soon arrived and off we went to George Washington Cave. Marion spent about an hour copying down what he felt were historical names. Then Corey took us over to his new digs in Sandy Hook and we finalized our plans for the next days trip to Tanglefoot.

Saturday, August 3rd
The real cave trip.
Marion and I drove up to Corriganville for our 9:30 meeting with the rest of the crew. Sharon opted to go winery touring locally with my wife. Adam couldn't make it so Ali (Crosby) and Corey would survey the drier passage, and I volunteered Marion, Scott Walquist, and myself to do the mucky, but shorter first "hog waller". Our team got about 200' of survey while Corey and Ali surveyed over 300 feet. They were still going strong when we left them. I was impressed by Marion's performance in the cave. He only gripped at a few nasty spots and generally seemed to enjoy himself.

Marion is 70(71 in Sept) years old. I told him I was pretty sure that he would remain the oldest person to ever do a through trip in Tanglefoot. It ranks as the most difficult non-vertical cave I've ever done, as it presents the explorer with one obstacle after another, and most cavers come out pretty trashed.

Scott, Marion, and I went to Pizza Hut for dinner. Then we bid Scott farewell and returned to see if Ali and Corey were out yet. They were not, but within about an hour we saw their lights bobbing along the trail. We compared notes and then Marion and I headed back to Smithsburg, arriving around midnight.

On Sunday morning we bid adieu to our guests as they departed for convention.

Subject: Mt. Aetna Caverns

It has come to my attention that coinopwharehouse (all one word) has Mt. Aetna Caverns signs for sale. I understand TSG helped gate it a few years ago. Thought some local cavers might be interested. Would be great for a MAN CAVE...or woman cave... ;) You can find them on facebook and online at www.coinopwarehouse.com

James Durst NSS42524 [WNS SUX]

OTR

At OTR, Nathan Roser won the Men's 30 meter sit stand climbing with a time of 1:24.3

He then put a foot ascender on his frog rig and entered the 30 meter mechanical but he did not do so well because of competing in the sit stand less than 20 minutes before.

Congrats Nathan!!!!

Highline Ropes

If anyone is interested in rope, Highline has it for sale for \$0.40 per foot. If you are interested contact Highline at: mail@highlineropes.com

You probably won't find it much cheaper.



Some of the mud at OTR



More mud at OTR



Some of the water at OTR (6" of rain) (Don't know who took this one)



Party!!!! (Photo by Tom Griffin)



OK everyone! Hold onto your hats! Look really close at the photo! Who do you see dancing! That's right, that's Ann dancing with Paulette! She was even up after 11:00 pm (actually about 2:00 am).

Everyone was partying hardy!!!!!!

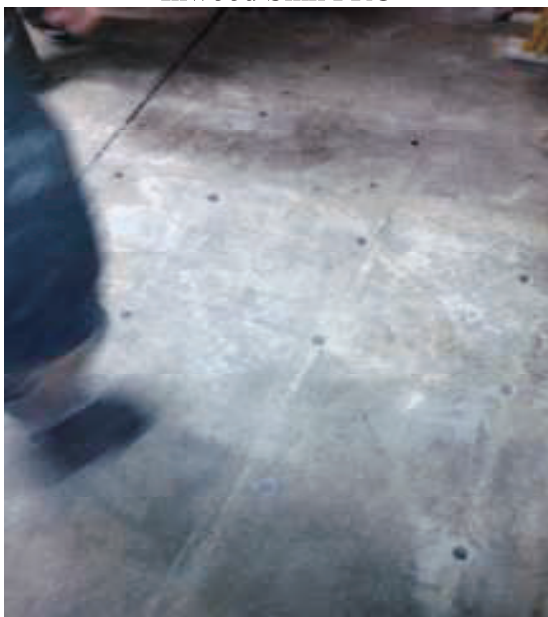
(Photo by John DiCarlo)



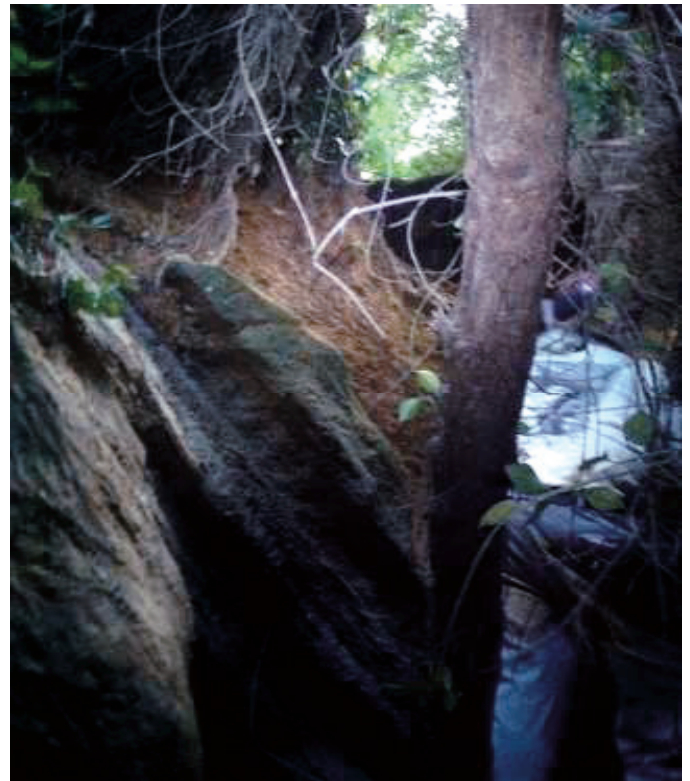
Inwood Sink FRO



Inwood Sink FRO



Drilled hole pattern at the Apollo (Tom G.)



Inwood Sink FRO (Tom Griffin)



John drilling at the Apollo (Tom Griffin)

To: VARLIST@LISTSERV.VT.EDU
Subject: Fall VAR Registration Reminder!!

Hello!

This is just a friendly reminder to please pre-register for Fall VAR! If you register at the door, we cannot guarantee a dinner Saturday night.

Details Below:

Fall VAR 2013

Host: VPI Cave Club

When: Friday, September 27th through Sunday, September 29th.

Where: Poor Farm Festival Grounds, Williamsburg, WV, Greenbrier County, (Near Lewisburg, WV).

What: Awesome caving, vertical work, provided Saturday night dinner, live music entertainment, and an all-around fantastic time!

Come join us at Poor Farms Festival Grounds in Williamsburg, West Virginia, in Greenbrier County on September 27-29 for a weekend of exploring that classic West Virginia borehole passage, vertical work and activities, and a pig roast dinner and live music entertainment from Septapus on Saturday night!

Pre-registration is open by mail until September 15th and online until September 23rd. \$30 will guarantee you Saturday night dinner. At the door registration is \$35 and we cannot guarantee you a meal, so make sure to pre-register so we know how much food we need to provide.

This even will also be a BYOB event! TAG does this and it helps with our budget. Also, glass bottles and dogs are also not permitted this year. This is because we are camping on a farm with cattle and livestock. This is the land-owners rules, not ours. Sorry!

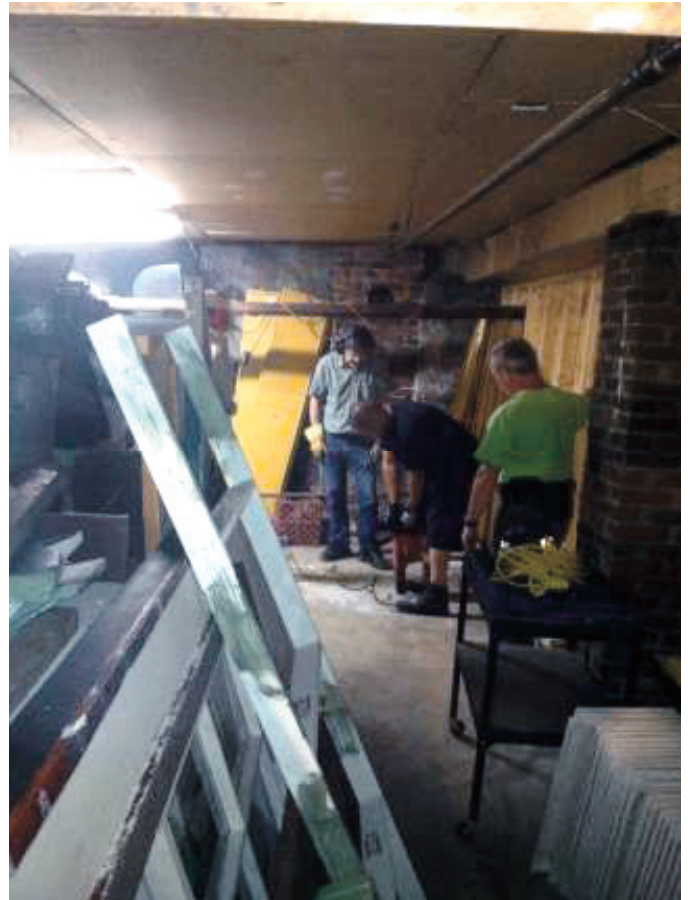
Kids under the age of 18 will cost \$25 for pre-registration and \$30 at the door. Children from 0-4 are free. The preregistration form can be found at the web site below, where you can also register online:

<http://www.varegion.org/var/events/FallVAR/FallVAR.shtml>

This event will be combined with Young Timers Reunion (YTR), so area college cavers will also be in attendance. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share great stories and support a wide variety of cavers.

The Sunday morning VAR meeting will be at 9:00 AM on the stage.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Basement of the Apollo (Tom G)



Location of the Jefferson High School sinkhole/cave

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(Ann M.)



(Ann M.)



(Jeff Hajenga)



All photos are of Baker Caverns, Franklin Co, PA
2013 NSS Convention (Ann M.)



(Jeff Hajenga)

Cross Roads Cave

By

Well, I have lost my cave partner. I took Earle down to Virginia Tech for school. Before we took him I decided to take one last cave trip. I decided to go to Crossroads



Cave. If you have ever been to Cross Roads you would

know that it is always a problem getting into the cave because of



the mazy area at the start of the cave. So Earle Suitor, Earle, me (Eric) and a Doctor Conley. Doctor Conley works for NASA and this was her second cave trip. Well as it was we traveled in the mazy area for a little bit. Earle B was the leader and was reading the map. Once we made it out of the mazy area we started looking at all the different passage ways and it amazing how many times I have been in the cave and just passed on by most of the passageways. We followed a small stream passage and that went into a different part of the



cave that I have never been in. Once we looked around we

followed another passage out and we ended up near the large pit. There we found a passage way that went up into the ceiling into a small balcony with a lot of nice formations. This was one of the few places in the cave that looked like only a few people venture



into the ceiling. Once out of the balcony we made it to the large pit and once we crossed it we went into a wall passage. Once in the wall passage we found the dome pits and I found a really nice formation in a passage way that you had to chimney over to. This cave is a well-traveled cave and it is amazing how you find some really nice formations. We made it to the camping area and



decided to start heading out and Earle B was still leading. We stopped sort of the large pit and went to the other pit which is next to the pit went around, at the bottom this pit went followed a small stream passage that brought us out in an area past the pits and out up into an area that was full of some real nice flow stone formations. Once in the mazy area we got turned around and ended in a loop. Well out came the map and we figured we were only a few feet on the other side of the passage that will lead us out. Once we made it to the main passage way it was a simple walk out to the climb out entrance. It was a great trip and we had a good time climbing around a well-traveled cave. Well Earle is at Virginia Tech now and hopefully he will join the VPI Grotto and take me on a few trips when I go and visit him.



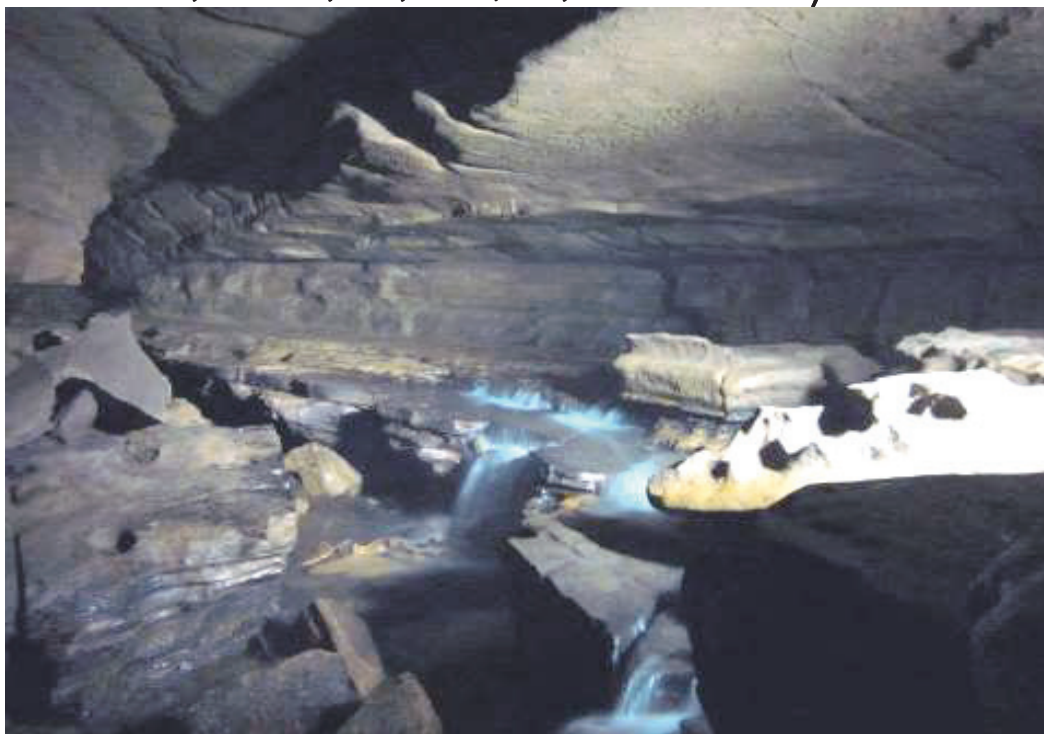
CAVIN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 8TH - OCTOBER 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 8 GRAND PARENT'S DAY	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11 PATRIOT'S DAY Meeting 7pm - Slide show on Grand Caverns	Sep 12 Appollo Theater 6:00 pm	Sep 13	Sep 14
Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21
Sep 22  EQUINOX	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27 Fall MAR - Woodward Cave, PA Fall VAR - Poor Farm Festival Grounds, Greenbrier Co. WV	Sep 28 Fall MAR Fall VAR
Sep 29 Fall MAR Fall VAR World Heart Day	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4	Oct 5
Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8	Oct 9  Meeting 7pm	Oct 10 Fall TAG Cave-In - Lookout Mt, GA	Oct 11 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 12 Fall TAG Cave-In
Oct 13 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 14 COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19 Bridge Day

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Bowden Cave (Corey)

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