

# TSG: Atha Dig



TSG & FCG bucket brigade



Bob & JMU digger



Chase



John Boswell



Ken T



Gordy setting another straw

V. #29 I. #1 JAN 2014 #

TRI-STATE GROTTO

DEAD DOG DISPATCH





**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR**  
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For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

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 464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.  
 GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211  
 304-579-4304

E-MAIL: [gimpycaver@comcast.net](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)

\*\*\* Most of the photos on the cover were taken by  
 Ken Tayman at the joint TSG/FCG dig at Atha  
 Cave, Berkeley Co, WV.

\*\*\*\* Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is  
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**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT  
 VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE  
 STILL NEED SOMEONE FOR THE FOLLOWING  
 POSITIONS:**

**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**  
**DISPATCH** must be sent to the EDITOR NO LATER  
 THAN THE **25<sup>TH</sup>** OF EACH MONTH.

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**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#29**

**I.#1**

**JAN**

**2014**

**#2**

# CAVING EVENTS 2016

## 2014

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.

Month of December ----- **\$14.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5512.50**

The money was sent to SCCI!

**Keep It Coming!**

## WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
 VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
 NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
 NSS Convention 2014 ----- <http://nss2014.caves.org/>  
 OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
 MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
 WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
 Andy Celmer ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Andy/)  
 Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
 Ehren Gieske ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Ehren/)  
 Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
 Vitas Eidukevicius ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/)  
 David Hackley's Web Site ----- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>  
 Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
 Rock Climbing Knots Friction ----- [www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/)  
 Tri-State Grotto MySpace ----- [www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/)  
 Animated Knots by Grog ----- [www.animatedknots.com/](http://www.animatedknots.com/)  
 White Nose Syndrome ----- <http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>  
 WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>

JAN 1 --- NEW YEAR'S DAY  
 JAN 4 --- Annual TSG Holiday Celebration – 6pm  
 JAN 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 JAN 20 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY  
 JAN 24 --- TSG birthday  
 JAN 24-26 --- Winter Adventure Weekend, Carter Caves State Park, KY  
 FEB 2 --- GROUND HOG DAY  
 FEB 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY  
 FEB 17 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY  
 MAR 9 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  
 MAR 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 MAR 15 --- Adam Stephen dig – 9am  
 MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY  
 MAR 25 --- MD Day  
 APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
 APR 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 APR 11-13 --- Spring VAR – RASS  
 APR 15 --- TAX DAY  
 APR 18 --- GOOD FRIDAY  
 APR 20 --- EASTER  
 APR 22 --- EARTH DAY  
 APR 25 --- HARBOR DAY  
 MAY 2 --- DAY OF PRAYER  
 MAY 5 --- CINCO de MAYO  
 MAY 10 --- HERITAGE DAY  
 MAY 10 --- ADAM STEPHEN DAY  
 MAY 11 --- MOTHER'S DAY  
 MAY 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 MAY 16-18 --- Spring MAR – OTR site  
 MAY 17 --- ARMED FORCES DAY  
 MAY 23-26 --- Ky Speleofest  
 MAY 26 --- MEMORIAL DAY  
 MAY 30-JUN 1 --- SERA – NSS Hdqtrs  
 JUN 6-8 --- Bubble weekend  
 JUN 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
 JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY  
 JUN 15 --- FATHER'S DAY  
 JUN 20 --- WV DAY  
 JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
 JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY  
 JUL 9 --- TAG PICNIC – CRYSTAL GROTTOES  
 JUL 14-18 --- NSS Conv – NSS Hdqtrs  
 JUL 27 --- PARENT'S DAY  
 OCT 10-12 --- Fall TAG Cave-In  
 OCT 18 --- Bridge Day

## 2015

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

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

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**JAN**

**2014**

**#3**

WNS -----  
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>  
Containment Procedures -----  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>  
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----  
[www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)  
Tri-State bulletin Board:----- <http://wobey.net/phpbb2>  
Tri-State Photo Gallery: ----- <http://wobey.net/gallery>

## CAVE BIRTHDAYS

### MONTH OF JANUARY

Chris Coates, Danny Cumbo, Judy Fisher, Sonny  
Floyd, Bob Gray, Stacey Hajenga, Keith  
Hammersla, Samantha Hicks, Fritz, Kysar, David  
Wayne Lucas, Tim McDougale, Sheria Pope, Johnny  
Robinson Sr, Earl Suitor, Fiord'aliza Vis, Trish  
Walthers

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## TRIP REPORTS

### JAMAICA ADVENTURE 2013 – Judy Fisher

J. C. and I decided to take a week-long vacation to Jamaica. J. C.'s first week long vacation in at least 20 years. We also chose to do an all inclusive at a Sandals Resort. The two of us not being the typical Sandals tourist decided to make prior arrangements to experience the real Jamaica. We had contacted The Jamaican Caves Organization to arrange to spend a day in the Cockpit Country hiking and going to a cave.

We met our contact Stefan at our resort and upon completing the proper paper work, as required by the Resort, signed, sealed and delivered at the front desk. Stefan is approved to take us offsite. We leave the Resort to begin a new adventure. "Life's an ADVENTURE with J. C."

Our scenic drive takes us past two Great Houses and along side the Martha Brae River known for the

bamboo rafts drifting slowly downstream with tourists. We pass through the small farming communities of Perth Town and Reserve. Parting ways with the river, through Sherwood Content, Coxheath and finally to Windsor.

We arrive at our destination and park at the end of a dirt road. Stefan tells us about the adventure we are about to undertake. We are in the central region of Jamaica. It is a very hot and humid day. With day pack, lots of water, hiking poles and camera in hand, we are off on the trail. We are hiking the Tory-Windsor Trail, Cockpit Country. Stefan is a most excellent and knowledgeable guide.

British army soldiers built the Tory-Windsor Trail in the 1700's, during the Moroon Wars. The trail was built as a fast way to go across the Cockpit Country. This also gave the British control over two important water sources: the head of the Martha Brae at Windsor, on the north side of the Cockpit Country and to the south the springs of Booth and Tyre. Most of the water runs underground due to the geologic nature of the Cockpit Country karst.

As we hike this military trail created by poor British conscripts, we take notice of the stone embankments and the quality of workmanship even after all the years gone by. The stone embankment follows around the many steep hills. The Trail is impressive and quite well maintained by the Jamaican Cave Organization. We do not recommend trying to find this Trail on your own, contact Stefan as he is a great guide. We continue to hike as Stefan explains that this is some of the most difficult terrain on earth to navigate. We can imagine being a British army soldier wearing a wool uniform building this Trail under the hot Jamaican sun. Most soldiers were lucky to survive three (3) years.

Our hike is coming to an end. To say the least, we did not make it as far on the Tory Trail as we thought we would. Just too much to see and too many questions besides being very hot but it was great.

We turn around and head back down the Trail to the vehicle with a detour to the upper entrance to Windsor Cave. The upper entrance is huge with eroded dry formations hanging all around. We sit here awhile admiring all that abounds around us.

We return to the vehicle, don our helmets and lights and head up another trail to the Main Entrance of Windsor Great Cave. Windsor Great Cave is owned by the World Wildlife Fund (UK). In the 1930's, Windsor Great Cave entrance was formerly part of the Windsor Estate. The cave was then exploited for its guano.

Windsor Great Cave is located in Trelawny Parish on the North Coast of Jamaica. The cave is a 2,980 meters (9,780 feet) long complex cave. Windsor Great Cave is an important bat roost that is host to 12 species or more. Some of the bat species are: *Pteronotus macleanii*, *Pteronotus parnellii*, *Macrotus waterhousli*, *Glossophaga soricina*, *Monophyllus radmani*, *Artibeus jamaicensis*, *Natalus micropus*, *Mormoops blainvilli* and *Eptesicus lymani*. A colony of 50,000 bats live here and is responsible for the slippery mud that covers the cave floor. We will stay away from the areas where bats are located. This cave also has a diverse collection of invertebrates and delicate formations.

We begin to follow Stefan up the trail to Windsor Great Cave. Not far from the Main Entrance, below a large v-shaped indentation in the cliff, the trail crosses over a large boulder collapse. Stefan points out the resurgence. Entering Windsor Great Cave there is a pathway that descends along the right side of the entrance chamber. This is decorated with massive eroded stalagmites. The path continues to ascend over mud guano covered breakdown to a large breakdown room, Jaram Top. Here we sit admiring the height of the ceiling and the abundance of formations. This area is huge. High up in the ceiling we see a bat or two, not shining our lights so not to disturb.

This was quite an experience for J. C. as the temperature in the cave was quite warm with lots of insects flying around your head lamps. Our cave trip was short but gave us an idea of the caves in

Jamaica. For caving in Jamaica, we highly recommend contacting the Jamaican Caves Organization. Our guide Stefan Stewart was great, full of information and history of the area.

As always, it is great to stop and visit with local people. We stop at a local establishment for an over-due cold beer. Our time is running short and Stefan needs to get us back to the resort. J. C. and I are known as the different tourist – venturing out and away from the resort.

Wow – what a day. Upon arriving back to the room, I find a hot soaking tub of bubble bath with rose petals and a very cold bottle of champagne. I'm spoiled!!!!!!

**"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."**

#### **Tanglefoot 2.18.12**

This trip, the Ryan, Dave, and I were joined by Terry McClanathan of Hagerstown, Md. Ryan, Terry, and I met at Arby's around 10 and proceeded to the park and bike, where Dave was already waiting. Terry filled out a waiver (and I filled out a waiver again) and we were ready to go. Not dallying much at all, we reached the entrance quickly and entered the cave at about 11:30 AM: our earliest start time ever!

Things had dried out a bit since last trip, but the entrance was still a slime slide. Oddly, I could have sworn the cave briefly began sucking air in as I made my way into the entrance, but airflow seemed consistently outward for the rest of the trip. Maybe I was simply fooled by the strength of the air pouring around me into thinking that it was moving the wrong direction.

Terry knew from my other exploits that any cave I was involved in opening was not likely to be very pleasant, and I am proud to say (sort of) that I think tangle lived up to his expectations. Luckily, we were blessed with a day of relatively easy survey beyond the rectangle room. We surveyed first up into the breakdown loop above the head of the #4 and #5 infeeders. This area is very unstable, and extends a distance into the savage dam shales and sandstones. Lots of roots are visible in the area, and it can't be too far below the bank. The new high point in the cave is up in this area, 17' above the entrance. Since the infeeder complex is joint controlled, and the joints in this area run 20 or 30 degrees west of the strike, and the passages bottom out on the contact layer, joint oriented passages in tanglefoot descend gently from South to North. The map will begin to show three major orientations: one along joints, one along the strike, and yet another along the dip, at generally right angles to the strike. At areas where major down-dip passages turn strikeward, joint passages develop as more expedient drainage, distributing the same amount of vertical descent over a shorter distance, and hence having higher gradient. This is a little hard to visualize, but imagine an inclined right triangle, with the slanting leg formed by a down-dip passage, and the horizontal leg formed by a strike passage. Now imagine the hypotenuse is a joint passage. Remembering your basic geometry, the hypotenuse must be shorter than the sum of the two legs. In the case of an inclined triangle, however, it descends the same amount over this lesser horizontal distance. Thus it is situated at a higher average angle. In this way, joints provide the most efficient path, on average, of descent through the mountain to the spring. This explains the presence of joint passages around areas where major down-dip passages form sudden corners with strike-oriented passages.

We closed the loop and opted to survey down dip out of the joints and down towards the main stream. 50-100' of survey remains off the south end of #4 infeeder room, but we'll save that for another trip. This time, we dropped through the #4 infeeder and surveyed a dry, spacious passage that heads North at a level higher than the stream. At the northern

extremity of this passage, we met the water coming in from the #3 infeeder, and surveyed straight down dip to stream level. The stream is 57' below the cave's current high point, and 40' below the level of the entrance. The survey upstream begins at a point that was higher than I realized, meaning the cave will gain a lot more relief relative to the entrance than I had at first realized. I estimate that the cave's high point in the upstream direction will be as much as 100' above the entrance level, if the high room described in trip report 4 is disto-ed.

Having surveyed about 4 hours, we packed up to attend to the trip's other objective: push as far northward as possible to look for evidence of an imminent connection to any of the caves in the quarry. Our trip downstream was routine. We paused in the trident room to eat and drink, and Terry chose to jump under the falls to clean up his suit a bit. I climbed up into one of the canyons leading up dip from the trident room. The climb is actually a bit tricky, but at the top you are rewarded with the best view of the room available and a cute little column. Both canyons degenerate rather quickly into larger pancake passage, and remain unpushed. Large cobble piles indicate that this infeeder is likely pretty major.

We made short work of the canyon downstream of the trident room and the long crawl at the bottom of said canyon. We were mostly able to keep dry in the waterfall climb on this trip, owing to lower spray. We entered the projection crawl, with Terry and I ahead and Ryan and Dave behind. Dave, unfortunately, was experiencing a wardrobe malfunction. His coveralls, by this point on the trip, were wore or less entirely shredded. Much more, and he would be caving nude. The projection crawl worsened the state of affairs, and he headed back up to the trident room before he made it all the way through.

Terry ventured a little downstream, wanting to maximize his depth, (he collects caves of over 400' in relief) but owing to our time constraints and the largely tiresome nature of these passages, he turned back up dip and joined Ryan and I in our push for the quarry. After making a brief fore up into the spacious abandoned canyon explored on the last trip

(where Ryan had made voice contact with me from the other side of the projection crawl), we moved north along the major strike passage until it divided in several directions. Ryan picked a low push back a ways, while I picked the most jointed route of those available. It soon came to a tight spot, but appeared to open up on the other side. After taking a minute to communicate with Terry, I dug the thing open with a rock and was moving again in short order.

The joint passage hit another very major strike passage, which Ryan and I concluded was likely the destination of the lead he picked. After a short distance in this passage, it intersected a nice entrenchment canyon in the Loyalhanna. This was the source of the gushing I had heard on the last trip, though the water was obviously now much lower. Remembering my goal was to move north, not up dip, I continued in the strike passage towards the quarry. It opened up into more joint controlled stuff, and, remarkably, the only true horizontal walking passage in the cave. This was short lived, but very nice. Next was some joint passage, not tight, but small enough to force me to work through on my side.

It was here I began to really notice some odd changes. The passage floor was covered in a white powdery material that I have seen before in caves near entrances. The walls were becoming frost shattered, and the air was getting colder with every yard I moved north. Finally, about 300' north of the beginning of the push, the passage became too tight. The floor was made of small, shattered rock, and was totally white except for a heavily used raccoon path, which wore a dark red, sinuous streak through the powdery material. I was forced to retreat, though obviously very near an entrance.

The canyon I had passed on the way in was so major that it warranted an investigation. I turn upstream (upstream was walking passage; downstream was a scramble) and in no time had intersected a strike corridor. It seemed pretty obvious that this corridor connected back into the area where Terry was waiting, and having been gone now for maybe 20 minutes, I wanted to check in with him. My guess was correct, and within a couple minutes of southward crawling, I was talking

to both Terry and Ryan. After some brief deliberation, Terry decided to head back through the projection crawl to meet Dave and post him on our progress, while Ryan was to stay put and wait for me to travel back to his location. Unfortunately, the passage was too low for me to make an easy connection, so I had to retrace my steps. Given this, I begged for an extra 10 minutes to get a sense for the canyon upstream before returning. We agreed, and I crawled back to the canyon and struck off upstream. This brief excursion proved to reveal the most geologically significant and puzzling piece of information that Tanglefoot has yet given us.

Within a few feet, something was obviously very different about the passage. The ceiling, which slopes upwards with the dip in almost of Tangle's passages, gently leveled off, and then, in a very disorienting few yards, began descending in the opposite direction of the dip, as if I had crossed the axis of an anticline. Stranger still, the small stream passage, now a nice walkway, had turned gently northwards, meaning that the stream was flowing from the direction of the quarry towards the south, INTO the mountain instead of out of it, towards the entrance instead of away from it. Before long, I was walking upstream along a sculpted, scalloped streamway, formed entirely in the Loyalhanna limestone!

The absurd flow direction was a short lived condition, and within a couple hundred feet, the passage swung unexpectedly back towards the south, making a hairpin turn. Suddenly formations began appearing on the walls, floor, and ceiling. It was really quite nice. I got to a delicate area with a beautiful ribbon on the wall, grading from reddish brown to pure white, and a constriction of sorts ahead. I decided to turn around here, and didn't get a look through the tight spot, although it appeared passable and a nice echo was audible ahead. The cobbles in this stream were quite large when compared with the cobbles in other, larger streams in the cave, perhaps even the main stream. Also interesting was the presence of sticks and organic debris on the walls and floor indicating 1) the passage connects to the surface somewhere upstream and 2) this connection is likely right in the surface streambed. This is consistent with the much



higher volume of flow I heard on the last trip. I named the passage Loyalhanna canyon, since it is the first true extensive passage in the Loyalhann family so far found in the cave.

What is odd is that the passage, in the stratigraphically lower Loyalhanna, climbs through the very resistant contact layer that most of tanglefoot is perched on, to join the rest of the system. There is only one way I can imagine this occurring, and that is a situation where an entrenchment canyon, initiated in the deer valley, breached the contact layer and sliced through a section of pure Loyalhanna cave, originally part of a distinct drainage pattern. This would snatch the water from the latter, and leave the old continuation of the passage high and dry somewhere near the point of piracy. Rushing as I was, I didn't put this together until after having exited the cave. Unless there is a very significant fault in the area, enough to break the contact layer, this scenario means that I overlooked a dry passage in the Loyalhanna formation, heading into unimaginable territory in the elusive Loyalhanna system below. This area of the cave cannot be too terribly far from Deadfly, and I strongly suspect that Loyalhanna Canyon and Deadfly Cave were directly hydrologically related in the past.

With this exciting piece of news, we exited the cave at the only pace our exhaustion would allow. I took a little time in the stream crawl below the infeasible section to move rocks around and clear a trail, which, to my astonishment, seemed to make a huge difference in how easy the passage was to negotiate. With some major obstacles modified, the crawl really isn't all that bad. One by one, we popped out into a cold, by not biting, February night. Our time underground was roughly 11 hours.

Being the first out, I was the first to get changed, and I took the liberty, while waiting on the others, to scout the ravine upstream for other blowholes. I was surprised to find at least 6, all within 15' of the dry streambed. They are more rightly called windholes. The farthest upstream, the only other identified prior to the trip, seemed to me to be in the right area to be above one of the large rooms in the upstream area of the cave. If I am right in my

understanding, this would mean that we could have entrances on at least 3 properties. It seems likely that a new entrance could be opened in the quarry, possible that an entrance could be opened in the dry stream bed between Swigger and the tracks, and strongly possible that an upstream entrance could be dug at the aforementioned blowhole (it would likely be a vertical entrance.) Any of these entrances would have huge advantages over the current one, and would likely enter the cave at strategic points. The cave has now almost certainly passed the unofficial mile-mark, though this trip did not add any official depth. My guess is that the cave is now a minimum of 380' deep, and more likely well over 400'. Congrats to all! The discovery of a link into the Loyalhanna opens a whole new horizon of possibility for passage type and extent; thus, this was a very important trip. There is an outside chance that the best is yet to come...

#### **Thursday, January 2nd- Terry McClanathan Poorfarm (Pocahontas)**

I took some Georgia friends of mine who have a cabin near Renick to Poor Farm. Caving around New Years in W. Va. has become a tradition for the Stembel family. Present were John (Rocco) Stembel, wife Susan, and daughters Natalie and Starr. Also joining us from Atlanta area were Bob Jones and daughter Mary Pat whose parents (grandparents for Mary Pat) live near Lewisburg. Hardest part was getting the gate unstuck from the ice. Beautiful ice formation both before and past the gate. Toured the helectite section near the end of the lower borehole. Also went back to the pit area in the upper borehole. Rocco and I dropped the 76 foot pit which Corey and Adam bolted last spring. Inch of snow on the ground when we came out. Very pretty.

#### **Memorial Day – Nathan Roser**

On Friday December 13th Ali Crosby and I entered Memorial Day Cave at 8:30 PM. Our journey to camp took a wee while with heavy bags and we slept in late Saturday.



On Saturday morning Scott Wahlquist, Stevan Biggers, Rick Royer, and Carlin Kartchner headed off for their leads in the canyons above the Gypsum Sand Borehole J-hang. We were out of camp by 10 AM and headed for Drywater Canyon to work on a dig and attempt at least a voice connection with the Ziptie Canyons above Gypsum Sand Borehole. Rick warned us it would be hard to find the passage through the breakdown and sure enough we never found the lead amongst all the giant breakdown. Next we headed to the Gypsum Sand Borehole to check a few leads there. The first lead was off the hands and knees crawl at LAMB 41 after turned out to be a side pocket less than a body length long. It ended in a complete mud blockage with no air and some bat bones. We then went to the tight lead right past LAMB 39. It was a tight tube with a too tight floor slot. We named it CHOP since MUTTON would be too long to go with the LAMB theme.

Ali took lead tape and instruments and headed into the lead backwards while I followed on instruments and sketch. The first 5 stations were quite grim and then it opened to almost hands and knees crawl with a sand & cobble floor with gypsum crusts on the ceiling. At CHOP 6 we both heard a very strange hissing sound like pressurized water or air escaping we could not explain. After a few nicer shots the passage ended at a diggable sand squeeze with no airflow at the time. We only got 10 stations with 110 feet surveyed but I did my first sketch and we knocked off another tight lead. We met Rick and Carlin back in the borehole and heard their story. Carlin and Rick turned back early and managed to survey some nice upper level passage above the LQD survey while Scott and Stevan continued on to their bolting and pit leads up there. By then it was around 5 PM then so we headed to the dig at FY 39 where Lewis Carrol and Mark Stover left off years ago. There was no airflow initially but later we felt a cold draft coming out of the lead. We dug until 10:30 PM advancing about a body length and returned to camp. We slept in late Sunday and took a stroll through the easy first part of the FLAD passage and were out of the cave at 4:30 PM for a total of 44 hours underground.

## **And here's Hellhole – Nathan Roser**

After leaving Memorial Day and spending Sunday evening and most of Monday at the GVKS Fieldhouse, Ali Crosby and I decided to go to Hellhole a day earlier than originally planned. While packing our packs for a planned 4 or 5 day camp Mark and Vonny showed up at the fieldhouse. The 10 day campers sent up a wish list with Dave Riggs and Carl Amundson. I decided to take a cheese block, deer sausage, a drum of dinner mix, and a micro rack for the 10 day crew. We entered Shoveleater at 10:30 PM on Monday the 16th. Going down the ropes and through the Crawl to Hell was easy with the super heavy pack, but I had a pretty bad time getting up the ropes from Joy Canyon to camp. We arrived at Digger's Hall to find nobody there. On Tuesday afternoon Ali and I headed out from Diggers Hall to ZFE 35 to dig. We felt air coming from beneath the breakdown at the station so we popped down the hole there and began digging on a mud hole in the floor there. We enlarged this enough to squirm down it and I poked down to have a look and it was a small low mud room with no clear way on, we felt no air. After that we headed to the Under Camp survey to do a lead marked as an easy dig from Mark and Vonny's sketch. We dug it open and it only went a few body lengths. We decided to survey this and some small side passages that were sketched on the UC sketches but had no stations in them. We named our survey UCF "Under Camp Fools" since it was 1 AM when we began and we were already tired from 6 hours of digging earlier. Ali got to do her first cave sketch there. This netted us 49.45 feet of new survey.

Wednesday was spent looking for the DTF survey in the breakdown beyond the Rainforest Dome. We were not able to find this lead but felt plenty of air moving through the breakdown so we got into a miserable muddy long squeeze in between a block and the ceiling and worked 2 different faces. Both seemed to choke off with no movable rocks so we called it quits. Though an unproductive day I did get to see Ecstasy Avenue and Perservance Hall/Dome which are among the most amazing places I have ever seen underground.

Thursday we head far south in Silent Stream to the FUD 19 sump to survey the sections of stream there that have been traversed but not surveyed. We began where the stream goes into the breakdown near FUD 15 and surveyed 93.95 feet of wet and muddy passage. We named this survey FUSS "F'ed Up Snicker Stream" from the squished old snickers we had to eat. At FUSS 7 I noticed an upper triangle shaped passage coming in high on the right that was about 6 feet wide by 15 feet high. It might already have been traversed from the upper FUD passage but it may be a virgin lead requiring aid or piling a lot of rocks. When I plotted the data later that lead appears to head away from known passage so I'll be back once I learn to bolt climb to check that out. The stream went under BD so we headed around above to continue the survey from the other side and got another 137 feet before the lower stream cut across known passage. We shot across this and tied in to FUD 10 and continued down the other side and got another 90.4 feet before the cold wetness got to us and we retreated to camp.

Friday was our last day and we wanted something easier so we went to the sand dig at BGC 8. We dug for a few hours and made several body length of progress. The dig does not appear to open up any time soon but the passage can get quite chilly from the airflow. Back at camp excitement was building for the arrival of the big group on Friday evening which included Adam Byrd (The Byrdman). At some point the 10 day campers had turned this into a religion, complete with soulful sermons by The Reverend John Harman, and hymns.

Shortly past midnight on Friday night The Byrdman came with a lot of other cavers, and there was much rejoicing.

Saturday morning we got up from camp and said our praises to the Byrdman and headed out. We exited at 4:30 PM to partly cloudy skies and warm temperatures. All in all we added about 400 feet of new passage to Hellhole after a 115 hour trip.

### **Again Whittings Neck – Tom Griffin**

Cassidy, Jared , Mason , Eddie and Tom.

We hit the second entrance so they could repel the short drop. Eddie had never double rope repelled, he got that chance. Cassidy climbed thru the key hole. Then we headed to the second drop. Jared got to break in his new harness. Eddie, Jared and my self made the second drop. Jared made a big splash on this trip. The canyon was high since we just had all that rain the day before.

We only bounced the second drop then sent Jared went out with Mason and Cassidy so he could get warm. Eddie got to take a second trip down the rope since the rope bag came off the rope . Nice quick trip about 3.5 hours. This was on December 30th.



Since I have been a member of Tri-State Grotto for several years, I receive all their notes they send out on their email list. I recently received a note describing a dig they are doing near Whiting Neck Cave in Martinsburg, WV. Bob Bennett was looking for some help to bust up some large rocks near the dig, and to assist in hauling buckets of rock and clay from inside the cave.

Franklin County Grotto has several new cavers who have not participated in a "project" dig and I thought this would be a good opportunity to see how a dig into potential new cave works. The digging, hauling, and if lucky, exploring virgin cave, surveying and producing a map. The things that project caving is all about. So I forwarded the call for help to FCG members on our email list.

I am sorry to admit that the only 3 members to respond to the call where all experienced diggers, the



Placing soda straws in boulder.

*Photo by Ken T*



Gordy drilling hole for soda straws in big boulder *Photo by Ken T*



Bob emerging from the portable walls of the dig *Photo by Ken T*



surveyors and mappers. None of the newbie's took advantage of opportunity to get involved. FCG members who did participate were Gordy Ley, John Boswell, and Ken Tayman.

I baited Gordy in by mentioning the large boulder Bob wanted broken up and removed away from the dig entrance. He had been honing his micro-blasting skills and jumped at the possibility of using some chemical persuasion on the rock. John had a last minute change in plans which allowed him to participate. We thought we were arriving late, but it seems everything was just getting kicked off when we arrived.

Just as I had anticipated, Gordy went straight for the boulder, and was extremely happy when Bob agreed that busting it up and moving it was one of the priorities for the day. He grabbed his "chemical" kit and decided he would start with three soda straws. Two in the top and one into the side. I was afraid he might give into his belief "You can always use an

straws went quite rapidly and we were soon all standing on the ridge of the sink, out of harm's way, counting down.

The results were impressive. The bolder was shattered. I don't think anyone was more impressed than Gordy was. It looked like he really knew what he was doing. Everyone started hauling away the rubble. One more straw took care of the remaining large chunk of rock. This quickly accomplished the mission of getting the boulder away from the dig entrance.

Our attention then moved inside the dig. Gordy improved a few tight spots and made access to far end of the dig much more accessible. While Gordy was having his fun, inside, the other TSG and JMU cavers continued to dig, haul and remove rock and rubble. I would guess close to 100 buckets worth of fill, or more, was moved. Work on a second potential entrance continued.

TSG provided subs, chips and drinks for lunch. I spent some time cutting some steps down the side of the sink which allowed you to walk into and out of the sink without slipping or using your hands to steady yourself.

All in all it was a great day digging. I think we helped accomplish the major goals Bob had for the day. It was nice to get together with our TSG friends and I look forward to helping out again if this dig continues to move toward new cave. Thanks Bob for inviting us to help. Below is link to video of boulder crushing

<http://youtu.be/ZZL1NzHzBlc>



Boulder shattered from 3 straws of chemical persuasion.  
Ken T

Photo by



extra straw". The drilling, placing and packing of the





# CAVIN CALENDAR

## JANUARY 5TH - FEB 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	<b>Jan 8</b>  Meeting 7pm	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11
Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18
Jan 19	<b>Jan 20</b> MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23	<b>Jan 24</b> CARTER CAVES WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND	<b>Jan 25</b> CARTER CAVES WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND
<b>Jan 26</b> CARTER CAVES WINTER ADVENTURE WEEKEND	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1
<b>Feb 2</b> SUPERBOWL GROUND HOG DAY	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8
Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11	<b>Feb 12</b>  Meeting 7pm	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Scott Hollow (Corey Hackley)

## 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

