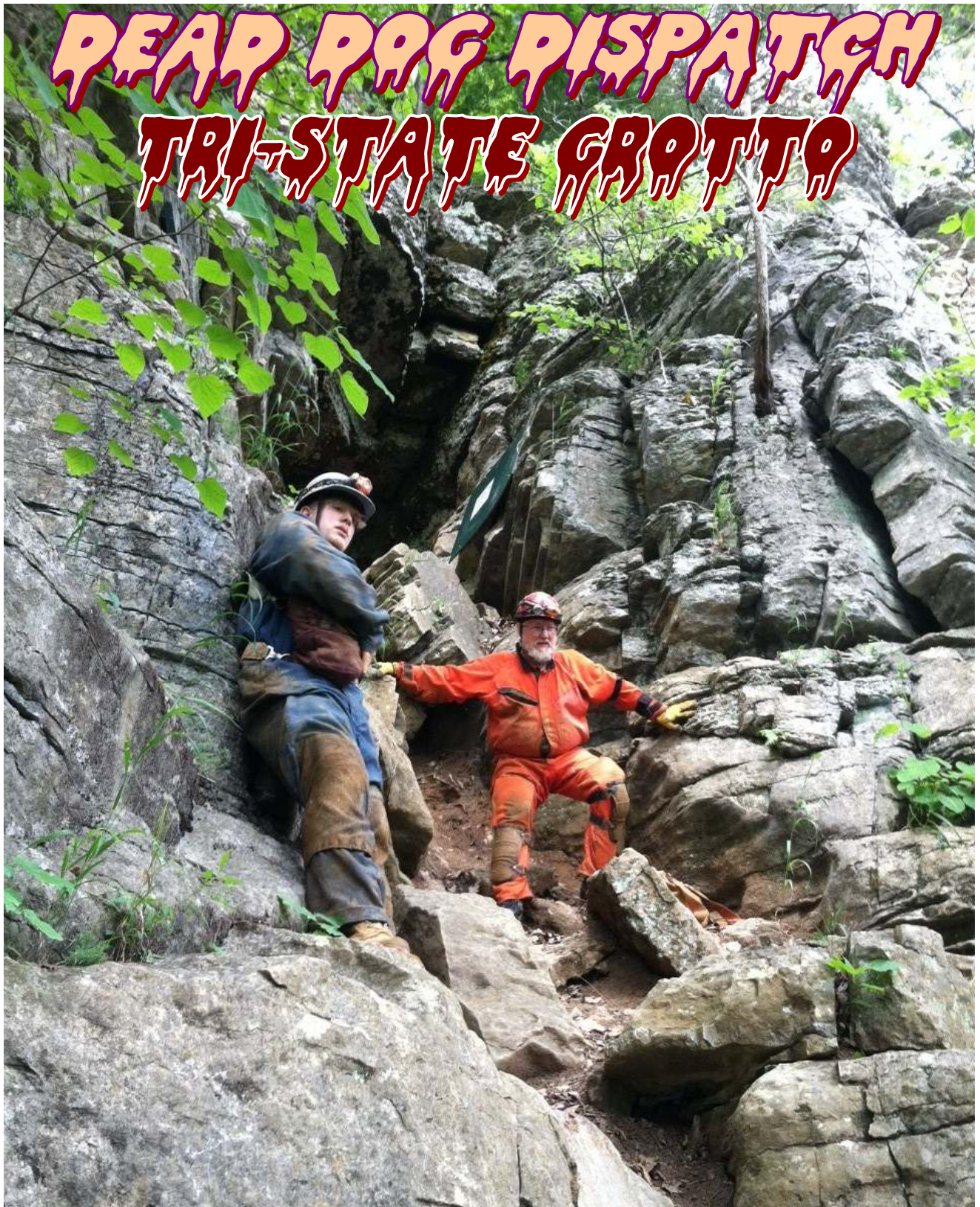


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**HAMILTON CAVE, PENDLETON CO, WV**

**VOL. #29**

**ISS. #7**

**JUL**

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**#77**





(SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)  
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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.

\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Tom Griffin at Hamilton Cave, Pendleton Co, WV.

## TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

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 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR

\*\*\*\* 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](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net) or **JUDY FISHER** [304-258-4974(H) or 304-258-1822(W)](E-MAIL at [jcf@access.mountain.net](mailto: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!**



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# CAVING EVENTS

## \*\*\*\*\* CAVE BUCKS \*\*\*\*\*

**JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**JUL 9 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**JUL 14-18 – NSS Conv – NSS Hdqtrs, Huntsville, AL**  
**JUL 26 ---- OTR Pre-Registration starts**  
**JUL 26 ---- Grotto picnic at Blue Ridge Acres Riverfront – 12 noon**  
**JUL 27 ---- PARENT’S DAY**  
**JUL 31 ---- Last day for TRA memberships**  
**AUG 8-10 ----- Indiana Cave Capers**  
**AUG 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**AUG 16 ---- OTR Pre-Registration Ends**  
**AUG 28-SEP 1 --- OTR**  
**AUG 30 --- DOO DAH PARADE – 10 AM**  
**AUG 30 --- POLYESTER POWER HOUR – 1PM**  
**SEP 1 ---- LABOR DAY**  
**SEP 7 ---- GRAND PARENT’S DAY**  
**SEP 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**SEP 11 --- PATRIOT’S DAY**  
**SEP 23 --- AUTUMINAL EQUINOX**  
**OCT 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Annual Auction**  
**OCT 10-13 -- Fall VAR – Rich Mt Battlefield near Beverly, WV – Hosted by Monongahela Grotto**  
**OCT 11-13 – Fall MAR – Rupert Cave – 7 Valleys Grotto**  
**OCT 9-13 – Fall TAG Cave-In**  
**OCT 13 --- Columbus Day**  
**OCT 18 ---- Bridge Day**  
**OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE**  
**NOV 2 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**  
**NOV 4 --- Election Day**  
**NOV 9 ---- SADIE HAWKINS DAY**  
**NOV 11 -- VETERAN’S DAY**  
**NOV 12 -- TSG meeting – Nominations – 7pm**  
**NOV 27 -- THANKSGIVING**  
**NOV 28 -- BLACK FRIDAY**  
**DEC 10 -- TSG meeting – Elections – 7pm**  
**DEC 13 -- Annual Christmas Celebration at Bob & Paulette Bennett’s home – 6:30 pm**  
**DEC 14 -- TSG caving – set trip up at party!**  
**DEC 21 -- WINTER SOLSTICE**  
**DEC 24 -- CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DEC 25 -- CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**DEC 31 -- NEW YEAR’S EVE**

**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 June ----- \$22.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5637.50**

**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>  
 WNS -----  
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>  
 Containment Procedures -----  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>

**2015**

**JUL 13-17 --- NSS Convention – Waynesville, MO**

**2016**

**JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention – Ely, NV**

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# GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

## MONTH OF JULY

Lynn DiCarlo, Bob Edmonds, Ellie Florance, Jason Hajenga, JEP, Kathy Robinson, Nuch Songasasen, Terry Ward

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

# TRIP REPORTS

Hamilton Cave Trip 06-28-2014

Well the Boy Scouts called and I had the trip planned for June 28, but as with all things that have to do with Boys Scouts sometimes it will fall through, and it fell through. But there is always a shiny light that comes through if you look for it and I did not have look for it because as with most things it is already there. You see I had people who wanted to help out and since the Boy Scouts had backed out, the trip was still on! What a great group, it was Earle Berge, Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Terri Griffin, Todd Zimmerman (Mister Zimmerman), Tina Blaik, and me (Eric Berge). We all arrived in Franklin, West Virginia at Mean Genes. Well I have stop telling people to meet at Mean Genes since Mean Genes has been gone for many years and most people have no idea what or who Mean Gene was. Well can you tell me what or who Mean Gene is? Well I will tell them now to meet at the Shell station at Rt. 220 and Rt. 33. No more "Mean Gene", the end of an era. Well, we met and off to the cave we went. Since Earle and Cheryl Suitor have taken over Trout Rocks the fences have been put back in place, the trails have been worked on the area looks really nice. Well after changing up the hill we climbed. To climb the hill is always a job, and it doesn't matter if it winter or summer I over heat. Well this day was no exception. Once I made to the cave I always

have to sit just to cool off. Well this was Earle's first cave trip since December 2013 and I decide to let him lead the trip and I would bring up the rear and place markers. By placing out markers when it is time to leave you leave the fastest route out and if someone else wants to lead out they can just follow the markers.



The first stop was the signature wall. The wall still is intact with very little damage to the signatures. It is always cool to look at all the cool old script on the walls. We back tracked and went straight down to the slab room. From where the register is. The slab room is the best place to stop and plan on where you want to go next. We decided to go to the dig site next. To get to the dig site is pretty neat, you have to do two chimneys over two pits and you end up in a room. At the end of the room is the dig site. The dig site is a good 12 foot drop at the end of the room. Once down the drop you will still find plastics bags full of dug dirt that was supposed to be

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taken a long time ago. What is so neat about the dig site is it continues to go with a lot of different passages I have yet to explore.



Bags of dirt (Tom G)



Bear claw scrapes (Tom G)



Shells (Tom G)

We hung around the dig site for a while and then headed out to the slab room again, and we then went down to the escalator. On the way we all discussed the new broken rock that was strewn around the different locations in the cave and I started talking about the earth quake that occurred several years ago. You can see where rocks have moved. Once at the escalator we decided to go to the new formation room.

To get to the new formation room is rather confusing and you have to make a few twist and turns and a nice small crawl and then you squeeze through some break down. I always have a good time in Hamilton cave and as I get to know it better the more I enjoy it. Well once at the formation room the cameras come out and photos are taken. We hung around the new room and awhile and decided to head out.



Well with the markers out Tom lead the way out, and I picked up the markers. I take less time to go out than coming in and we were back at the entrance within an hour or so. Once outside, a few of us decided to go up to Trout Cave and take a look at the gate. To get to the gate it is a simple climb up the rock face and there are plenty of foot holds and hand holds. I'm always in awe over the view of the county side from the front of Trout Cave. The climb down from Trout Cave is always fun because you now have to climb down a pretty steep climb and you have to land on a ledge where someone in the past had installed fence post that you can swing down on.

The cave trip was a great time and I hope next time I go a few more people go. Hamilton is a great trip.



Fox Cave (Judy F)



Carol & Bob working on dig (Pauline A)



Todd welding gate on Donaldson (Tina B)



Todd & Bob discussing how to fix gate (Pauline A)



Bob Hoke mixing concrete (Carol T)



# Adam Stephen Dig

**November 16, 2013**

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

**Martinsburg, WV** – Tri-State Grotto returned to the Adam Stephen House to again dig on the Adam Stephen Tunnels.

Last time we were there we had air problems. Tom made a reducer bag to fit on a box fan and blow air through 100 feet of black pipe. We rigged it up and ran it down inside the tunnel. It made a big difference. You will see it in several of the pictures.



Fan with Tom's reducer connected to the black pipe.

We started off with Jeff Marcum and Sarah Scrivener sliding down into the tunnel. Soon the buckets started coming up.



Tom Griffin pulling up a bucket.

We had been hauling buckets for a while before Jeff and Sarah found a snake. They managed to get it into a bucket that was pulled up. Everyone crowded around the bucket to look at the snake.

It was a Northern Ring Neck Snake. (*Diadophis Punctatus Edwardsii*) They are named for the light yellow or orange ring around their neck. Ours was about 8 inches, a one year old. They will grow a little less than 2 inches a year. They live in most environments like leaf litter and rotting logs. They eat earthworms, salamanders, frogs, lizards, ants and other small arthropods.

Mating in the spring, females secrete pheromones from their skin to attract males. When a male finds a female, he rubs his closed mouth along the female's body. The male bites the female around her ring neck. He aligns their bodies so sperm can be inserted into the female's vent. Females lay 3-10 eggs in loose, aerated soils under a rock or in a rotting log. (James Yung (2000))



Northern Ring Necked Snake

The buckets continued coming up. We had a nice group of volunteers to keep up the flow of buckets.



Keith Hammersla hauling out a bucket. Note the black air hose running inside.



Russell Linton hauling out a bucket of dirt.

By lunchtime we had 46 buckets of dirt and a bucket of snake pulled out. We called our diggers out. It was time to eat.



Sarah Scrivener climbing up out of the tunnel.



Jeff Marcum climbing out of the entrance.



Keith had prepared a great lunch for us. Before we called our diggers out, we gave Bob a head start over to where lunch was being served. After the last digger came out everyone else headed over.



Jeff Marcum and John Scrivener helping themselves to the lunch spread.

As people got their food, they sat at the tables that Keith had set up. Talk of caves and caving dominated the conversations.



Part of our group at lunch

After lunch we split into two groups. Part of the group went back to the dig with Tom and Todd going down to dig. The other group went over to the entrance on E. King St. It is the neatest cellar in town. When the group reached the sub-sub-basement, Sarah climbed down the hole to the next level below. After looking around, the group returned to the Adam Stephen House to carry more buckets of dirt.



John Scrivener carrying out a bucket.



Bob Bennett keeping track of buckets



**Sarah Scrivener halling out a bucket**



**Even Sid Bennett carried out a bucket**



**Keith Hammersla picks up a bucket at a relay point**

The previous photos have shown many people carrying buckets out. Most photos were taken at the same spot. This next photo shows where they are carrying them. Keith takes them from there or the doorway and carries them to the hillside and dumps them. He brings back the empties and trades them for a full bucket.

By the end of the afternoon we added 60 more buckets to give us a grand total of 106 buckets and one snake.

Our volunteers were: John and Sarah Scrivener, Jeff Marcum, Tom, Russell Linton, Bob, Paulette and Sid Bennett, Todd Zimmerman, John DiCarlo and Keith Hammersla.





# CAVIN CALENDAR

## JULY 6TH - AUG 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9  Meeting 7pm	Jul 10	Jul 11	Jul 12
Jul 13	Jul 14  NSS Convntion - Huntsville, AL	Jul 15  NSS Convntion - Huntsville, AL	Jul 16  NSS Convntion - Huntsville, AL	Jul 17  NSS Convntion - Huntsville, AL	Jul 18  NSS Convntion - Huntsville, AL	Jul 19
Jul 20	Jul 21	Jul 22	Jul 23	Jul 24	Jul 25	Jul 26 OTR Pre Registration Starts TSG PICNIC - Blue Ridge Acres - 12 Noon
Jul 27 Parent's Day	Jul 28	Jul 29	Jul 30	Jul 31 Last Day for TRA Membership	Aug 1	Aug 2
Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8 Indiana Cave Capers	Aug 9 Indiana Cave Capers
Aug 10 Indiana Cave Capers	Aug 11	Aug 12	Aug 13  Meeting 7pm	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16 OTR Pre Registration Ends

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Fox Cave (Judy F)



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