

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



TOM GRIFFIN IN RANSON SINK FRO

VOL. #29

ISS. #5

MAY

2014

#53



(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
or can be SENT TO:

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The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the **TRI-STATE GROTTO of the NSS**. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE GROTTO**.

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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.

*** The photo on the cover was taken by Jerry Bowen in the new sinkhole that opened up in Ranson, WV.

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TRI-STATE GROTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS
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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP --- \$12.00 (Non-NSS)
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
(SUSTAINING- \$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
(FULL FAMILY- must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)

**** 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!



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#29

I.#5

MAY

2014

#54

CAVING EVENTS

2014

MAY 1 --- DAY of PRAYER
MAY 1 --- Last day for discount – NSS Convention
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 9 ---- Check out sinkhole in Ranson, WV
MAY 10 --- HERITAGE DAY - Martinsburg
MAY 10 --- FRG Meeting – 10 am
MAY 10 --- Scouts rappelling – see Eric Berge
MAY 10 --- ADAM STEPHEN DAY
MAY 11 --- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAY 16-18 -- Spring MAR – OTR site
MAY 18 ---- Ridge walk – Lost River, WV – see Bob
MAY 17 ---- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 23-25 -- Rope work at Rock Enon – Scout camp
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 14 ---- Adam Stephen dig – 9am
JUN 15 ---- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 ---- WV DAY
JUN 20-22 --- Mud Fest – Lincoln Caverns – FREE!
JUN 20-22 --- Karst-O-Rama - KY
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 9 ---- TAG meeting – 7pm
JUL 12 -- TSG PICNIC – CRYSTAL GROTTOES –
12 Noon
JUL 14-18 – NSS Conv – NSS Hdqtrs, Huntsville, AL
JUL 27 ---- PARENT'S DAY
AUG 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
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 11-13 -- Fall TAG Cave-In
OCT 13 --- Columbus Day
OCT 18 ---- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE
NOV 4 --- Election 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

2015

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

2016

JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention – 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 April ----- \$20.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5572.50

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/

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#29

I.#5

MAY

2014

#55

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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MAY

Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson, Eric Berge,
 Stephen Bowen, JC Fisher, Chase Griffin, Steve
 Rexford, John Dale, Mary Eidukevicius, Jeff
 Marcum, Elysia Mathias, Trevor Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TRIP REPORTS

Fall VAR 2013

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

Photos by Erick Berge

Williamsburg, WV-I arrived at Fall VAR 2013
 Friday afternoon. Pulling into camp, I found Todd
 Zimmerman and set up camp beside him. Corry
 ended up on the other side, and Jerry and Steven
 were two down.

Todd and I went down to registration to look at
 trips. We ended up on Erick Berge's trip to Porters
 Cave.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#29

I.#5

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2014

#56



Before shot. What a clean bunch. No danger of spreading White Nose here.

We arrived at the cave and parked across the road.
 Suited up, we headed up the trail. Arriving at the
 cave we climbed down into the sinkhole. I had
 been here previously, and the entrance was just a
 window with a gate. Now, it has a gate made out of
 pipes that you climb through, with rebar steps.
 Porters Cave has two sides. When I was here
 before, we went right. This time we went left.

We had to go through a tight point with standing
 water. We bridged over it and saw a salamander in
 it.



Salamander

We caved down passages that were nicely decorated
 in spots. We arrived at a keyhole. The top was at

least five feet off the floor. You had to get your body horizontal before you entered the top of the keyhole. Halfway through there is a place where you can put down one foot, and then it's back up to the top to finish the second half of the keyhole.



John DiCarlo climbing out of a tight passage.



Todd Zimmerman coming out of the passage on his elbows.

As we conquered "The Keyhole" we lined ourselves around and in a four-foot drop and waited for everyone to climb through the keyhole. It was here we did TD.

We moved on down the passage, climbing, crawling and stooping. As we went Eric talked about the changes in the cave after the big earthquake. He told us that, in the passage we were in, it had been a smooth clay floor. Now you can see down 10 feet and newly broken edges on boulders and large rocks.



Could this have been from an earthquake many years ago?

As we caved along we came to a big slot. It was 20 some feet deep and 1 1/2 feet wide. You had to go down it at an angle. It was a good chimneying climb down.



John DiCarlo chimneying down a 35 foot deep crevasse



Todd Zimmerman sliding down the crevasse.



John DiCarlo deeper in the crevasse

We arrived at a natural bridge. Every one sat on it as Eric took pictures. After our photo shoot we moved on.





Todd Zimmerman holding up the bridge.

As we caved through, we made our way back to The Keyhole. Of course this slowed us down as each caver had to squeeze through.



Todd Zimmerman climbing through the Keyhole.



John DiCarlo coming through the Keyhole.



Stalagmite cup

We came into a large room with a nice ledge. Eric had us climb up there for another group shot. There was a nice size stalagmite with a stalactite over it. How long will we have to wait until it turns into a column?



There are a lot of neat formations in this room. You had to look around.



A nice shot across the ceiling



A pretty flowstone wall

Working our way through, we eventually came back to the gate. Exiting, we posed for an after shot of our group. Thank you Eric for taking us through a great cave.



After shot. Who's dirty now?

Races to the intersection with Flowing Springs Road. Detour signs redirect motorists around Fifth Avenue. Access to the casino and race track is not affected by the sinkhole or the detour.



Taken ny Tom G

From: tsg-bounces@wobey.net on behalf of John DiCarlo [j.dicarlo@myactv.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 10:34 PM
Subject: Ranson Sinkhole

This was in The Herald-Mail, Hagerstown, MD
Ranson Sinkhole
RANSON, W.Va. — An old culvert over Fifth Avenue appears to be the only property endangered by a sinkhole that appeared over the weekend, although the hole is larger than originally believed, a state highways official said Tuesday afternoon. By Monday, a hole measuring 2 feet by 2 feet opened up at the top, giving geological technicians access into the hole with cameras, said Brett Walker, a spokesman for the West Virginia Division of Highways.



Taken by John D

The camera showed that the sinkhole measured about 20 feet long and 11 feet wide, he said. "Our geo-tech team will determine the best fix," he said. That could include bringing in rock and fill to shore up the culvert or replacing it altogether. Highways officials didn't deem the sinkhole to be a serious problem or a threat to surrounding properties.

The state closed the portion of Fifth Avenue north of the railroad crossing past the Fifth Avenue entrance to Hollywood Casino at Charles Town



Taken by Jerry Bowen

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#29

I.#5

MAY

2014

#61



Taken by John D



Taken by John D



State Road Crew (John D)



Taken by John D



Taken by Mason Griffin using Bob's camera



Taken by Jerry B



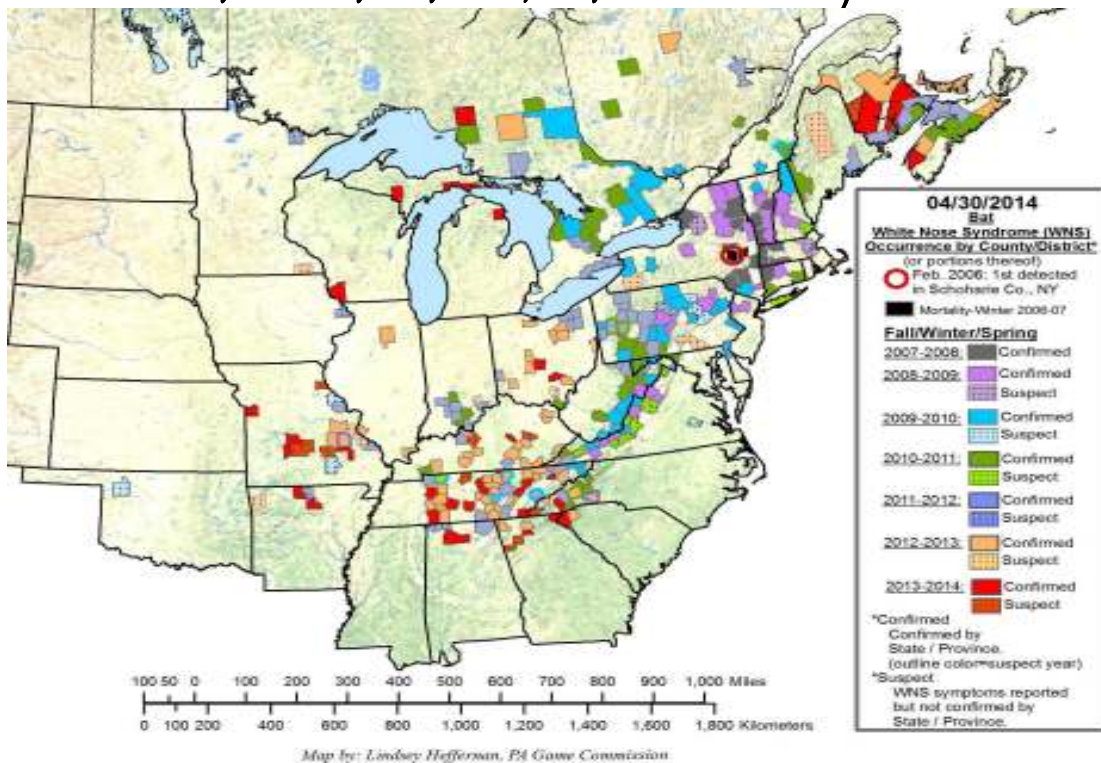
CAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 11TH - JUNE 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 11 MOTHER'S DAY	May 12	May 13	May 14 Meeting 7pm	May 15	May 16 Spring MAR at OTR site	May 17 Spring MAR at OTR site ARMED FORCES DAY
May 18 Spring MAR at OTR site Ridgewalk - Lost River - 9am - see Bob	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23 Rope work @ Rock Enon - see Tom Griffin KY Speleofest - KY	May 24 Rope work @ Rock Enon - see Tom Griffin KY Speleofest - KY
May 25 Rope work @ Rock Enon - see Tom Griffin KY Speleofest - KY	May 26 KY Speleofest - KY MEMORIAL DAY	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30 SERA @ NSS Headqtrs	May 31 SERA @ NSS Headqtrs
Jun 1 SERA @ NSS Headqtrs	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6 Bubble weekend	Jun 7 Bubble weekend
Jun 8 Bubble weekend	Jun 9	Jun 10	Jun 11 Meeting 7pm	Jun 12	Jun 13	Jun 14 FLAG DAY Adam Stephen dig - 9am
Jun 15 FATHER'S DAY	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 WV DAY Mudfest - Lincoln Caverns Karst-O-Rama - KY	Jun 21 Mudfest - Lincoln Caverns Karst-O-Rama - KY SOLSTICE

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TO:

