

# DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



## WHITINGS NECK CAVE

VOL. #30

ISS. #4

APR

2015

#53



**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR**  
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)  
 (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](mailto: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  
 304-821-4621

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

\*\*\* The photo on the cover was taken by Mike  
 Ward in Whittings Neck Cave, Berkeley 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-  
 821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** 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!**



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 BY THE  
**25<sup>TH</sup>** OF EACH MONTH.

**TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS**

CHAIR ----- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323  
 V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-821-4621  
 TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476  
 SECRETARY -- Paulette Bennett --- 304-821-4621  
 Member At Large --- Tom Griffin --- 240-676-3184  
 Membership Chair --- Bob Bennett ---304-821-4621  
 Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ----304-821-4621  
 Conservation Chair--Corey Hackley --301-432-2257  
 P R Chair ----- JC Fisher ----- 304-258-4974  
 Safety Chair ----- Tom Griffin -----540-955-0611  
 Program Dir -----  
 Funding ----- Paulette Bennett -----304-821-4621  
 Equip. Chair ----Tom Griffin ----- 240-676-3184  
 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

# CAVE EVENTS

## 2015

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

APR 1 ----- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
APR 2 ----- PB&J DAY  
APR 3 ----- GOOD FRIDAY  
APR 3-5 ---- Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend  
APR 5 ----- EASTER  
APR 8 ----- TSG meeting 7pm  
APR 10 ---- Last Day for VAR Discount  
APR 11 ---- Baker Quarry gate repair 9am  
APR 15 ---- TAX DAY  
APR 15 ---- Assault on the Apollo - 6pm  
APR 19-25 -- VA Cave Week  
APR 22 ---- EARTH DAY  
APR 24 ---- ARBOR DAY  
APR 24-26 -- Spring VAR - Natural Bridge Caverns  
                  hosted by BATS  
MAY 1 ---- DAY of PRAYER  
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO  
MAY 5 ---- Scout Cave Trip-see Jerry B  
MAY 8-10 -- SERA Cave Carnival  
MAY 9 ----- Adam Stephen Day - Natural Heritage Day 9am  
MAY 10 ---- MOTHER'S DAY  
MAY 13 ---- TSG meeting 7pm  
MAY 16 ---- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 20 ---- Assault on the Apollo - 6pm  
MAY 22-25 -- KY Speleofest  
MAY 25 ---- MEMORIAL DAY  
JUN 1 ----- Convention Discount Deadline  
JUN 10 ---- TSG meeting 7pm  
JUN 12-14 -- Bubble Weekend - Nancy Hanks  
JUN 14 ---- FLAG DAY  
JUN 20 ---- WV DAY  
JUN 21 ---- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
JUN 21 ---- FATHER'S DAY  
JUN 26-28 -- Karst-O-Rama - KY  
JUL 4 ----- INDEPENDENCE DAY  
JUL 8 ----- TSG meeting 7pm  
JUL 11 ---- TSG Picnic - Blue Ridge Acres - 12 Noon  
JUL 13-17 --- NSS Convention - Waynesville, MO  
JUL 26 ---- PARENT'S DAY  
JUL 31 ---- Last Day for TRA Membership  
JUL 31- Aug 2 -- Mudfest - Lincoln Caverns, PA  
AUG 1 ---- OTR registration goes live  
Aug 7-9 --- Indiana Cave Capers  
AUG 12 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm  
AUG 27 ---- OTR Preregistration Ends  
SEP 3-7 ---- OTR  
SEP 7 ---- LABOR DAY

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 March ----- \$34.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5818.50

The money was sent to New River  
Preserve!  
Keep It Coming!

## WEBSITE & GIVING 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/)  
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/>

## 2016

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

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#30**

**I.#3**

**MAR**

**2015**

**#55**

# GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

## MONTH OF APRIL

Pete Bracken, Marni Epstein, Kevin Hughes, Jeff Jahn, Lauren McCoy, Ann Shepherd

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Hey, everyone, go to the TSG website ([www.tristategrotto.com](http://www.tristategrotto.com)). It is up and running! The website is updated and looking good. Everyone give John Scrivener a big hay! Nice Job John!

## Hellhole Winter Bat Survey Numbers

Summary, 3 crews consisting of a total of 13 people conducted the survey. The following portions of the cave were surveyed:

- 1) The Bat Room & the Plecotus Room
- 2) The route to the Ship Room
- 3) The Entrance Room & North Passage area
- 4) Also the route to & the bottom of the 90' drop in the new section

WNS was confirmed in 2010. In 2015 5 data loggers were retrieved & 7 were deployed.

Indiana Bats were down 26% from the 2013 numbers and 90% from the 2010 numbers.

VA Big Ears were up 58% from the 2013 numbers. This is the highest numbers ever recorded with 12,036.

Although Little Browns were the most common bats in the cave before WNS, only 1912 were tallied.

Very few of the bats remaining show any visible signs of the fungus.

Little Brown (*Myotis Licifugus*) - 1912  
Indiana (*Myotis Sodalis*) - 1875  
Small Footed (*Myotis Leibii*) - 4  
Tri-Colored (*Permyotis Subflavus*) - 25  
Big Brown (*Eptesicus Fuscus*) - 4  
VA Big Eared - (*Corynorhinus Townsendii*) - 12,036  
Bat total: 15,586

Wow, we saw more Big Browns in Jones Quarry recently! Horrible considering the thousands that used to use the cave!

bob

# TRIP REPORTS

## March 20<sup>th</sup>

Marion O. Smith, Terry McClanathan  
Crucifixion Cave, Broken Rib Cave, Highway 30 Slope Cave

All three of these are in Van Buren County, Tenn. Crucifixion and Broken Rib were new to me. Both are small contact caves. In Crucifixion a short drop of 12 feet lead to a 63' pit. In Broken Rib Marion and I slipped down an awkward climb down of about 12 feet which was tight at the top. Our main target was a 94' pit near the back. Marion also recalled another drop of about 50 feet which we eventually found after rappelling down a very sloppy 10' drop. Marion's fifty footer, I taped at 67'. We both flailed our way back up the 12 foot entrance climb.

Highway 30 Slope Cave I'd been to before, but since that visit Elliot Stahl had done a traverse across a canyon and rigged a rope at a 30' climb up. Beyond this was a fifty foot pit which I'd never done.

We spent about an hour in Crucifixion, two hours in Broken Rib, and a bit over an hour in Highway 30 Slope Cave.

### **March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Stinging Fern, Vernal Cave, Juniperus Pit, Dash Pit Marion, Sharon Jones, Terry went down to Madison County, Ala. We were joined by Andy Zellner from Atlanta.

Our main objective was a new pit cave which Marion had tried unsuccessfully to locate the previous weekend. This time we had better directions and found it without too much difficulty. It was named Stinging Fern and was originally reported as a 200+ foot pit. We tied off Marion's 300 foot rope at the entrance and I rigged down three drops which we taped at 14', 108', and 102' in that order. There was very little horizontal displacement, but the two hundred footers were distinctly separate domes, thereby disqualifying Stinging Fern as a 200 footer. Both the big pits were surprisingly nice for something so new.

Later we visited a neighboring property owned by caver Dan Brown. He had us sign a waiver and then we hiked a short distance to a very scenic ravine which contained the Vernal/Equinox Cave System, plus several other shallower pits. The main entrance to Vernal was a huge open air pit which Andy and I taped at 126'. We bounced E-2 which was a wetter 85' pit. Only Andy and I did this one. The Equinox Pit entrance was taking a massive waterfall so we whimped on that one.

All four of us bounced two other dry pits, Juniperus Pit(45') and Dash Pit(51').

There were a couple of short horizontal caves in the same ravine which we also toured. We spent a total of about 4 hours bouncing pits and caving in this area.

### **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Marion and Terry

A couple of weeks earlier Clinton Elmore (Anne's son) and team had found what they said was a hundred foot pit in White County, Tenn. Marion had only sketchy information and was not very confident that we would find it, so Sharon opted not to go with us. Marion and I flailed our way through thick brush, and twice had to rappel off the cliffs, but finally after four hours of searching we did manage to find it. Our taping was only 98' so I was

a little disappointed. Turned out Clinton and crew had rigged a slope and counted that to get their 100' figure. Marion and my rig was shear and less ledgy. The pit is not quite 100 feet deep, but interestingly it is entirely in sandstone and rather voluminous. Clinton named it El Abyssmo.

### **Recently I have been involved with several cave trips - Bob B**

#### **February 5th**

Meeting with Venture Crew 66

Tom G & Bob B

Went over rappelling & safety equipment with scouts

#### **February 11th**

TSG meeting - Carl Amundson & Tom G brought rope to teach how to tie knots

#### **February 14th**

Adam Stephen Dig - John D, Keith H, Bob B, & a woman & 4 kids - No rope to hang ourselves! - Great lunch!

#### **February 19th**

Assault on the Apollo - Tom G, Bob B, Corey M, Kevin H, John D

Drilled about 40 new holes

#### **February 28th**

Lower Nestle Quarry - Tom G, Jeff M, Shawn H, \_\_\_\_\_, Mike Ward, Kevin Haney, Bob B, John Scrivener. Jeff M

1st time in the cave in 25 years for Bob - Forgot how pretty the cave was

Upper Nestle Quarry - Same crew

Whitings Neck - Tom G, Mike W, Kevin Haney, Bob B

40+ people in the cave - We decided to leave

#### **March 4th**

Meeting with Venture Crew 66 - Tom G & Bob B - Simulated rappelling & climbing with a safety

### March 9th

Karst search - Bob B, Tom G, Bob Denton, & Dan Doctor from the USGS

Took the group to Bunker Hill to see what I always thought was a collapsed cave (Once Upon A Cave). Actually it was a very large spring (at one time) that had a pretty high content of calcium. Over the approximately 1/2 mile area the calcite, called tufa, was 10' thick in spots. There is also a 30-40 foot section along the bank of the Mill Creek that contain many types of formations.

Went to the area of the Mill Creek where one of the largest springs in Berkeley Co empties into the creek.

Checked out the large & deep sinkhole in Inwood. Someone has filled the sink completely with all types of fill.

Checked out the sinkhole right in front of the Inwood Post Office. The sink is starting to open up in several places. Takes lots of storm drainage.

Went to Donaldson Cave - Dan wanted to check if it could be used in a future trip of his.

Checked several large sinkholes near Musselman High School.

Checked out a very large spring in Darksville.

### Mar 14th

Adam Stephen Dig - Bob B, Tom G, CJ & \_\_\_ Morris, John D, Todd Z, Jeff M, Keith Hammersla, a woman & 3 kids.

### March 18th

The Assault on the Apollo - Bob B, Tom G, Kevin Hughes, Corey Majtyka, Bob Edmonds, Ryan Royce, Don Karns

Drilled 25 holes - Used 2 versions of Infrared cameras to locate temperature differences

### March 21st

Whitings Neck - Venture Crew 66 - Tom, G, Bob B, Mike Ward, Shelia Yates, Kevin Haney, & 4 Venture crew with 2 adult leaders

Rappelled the 45' pit - Plenty of water at the bottom of the pit - By the time we left there were probably 30 people in the cave. Glad we came in early!

### March 27th

Checked out Shelter Cave in Harpers Ferry  
Tom G & Richard Schaffer - Discussed history & took pictures

Paulette & Bob B - Took pictures

### March 28th

Atha Dig - Tom G, Mason G, Bob B  
Survey dig to see what has to be done - Talked to owners, Cleaned up wood, tools & rope left behind from previous digs

Pictures from these events to follow.....



Teaching knots at the TSG meeting



Assault on the Apollo



Meeting with Venture Crew 66 (Tom G)



Lower Nestle Quarry (TG)



Lower Nestle Quarry (TG)



Lower Nestle Quarry (John S)



Upper Nestle Quarry (TG)



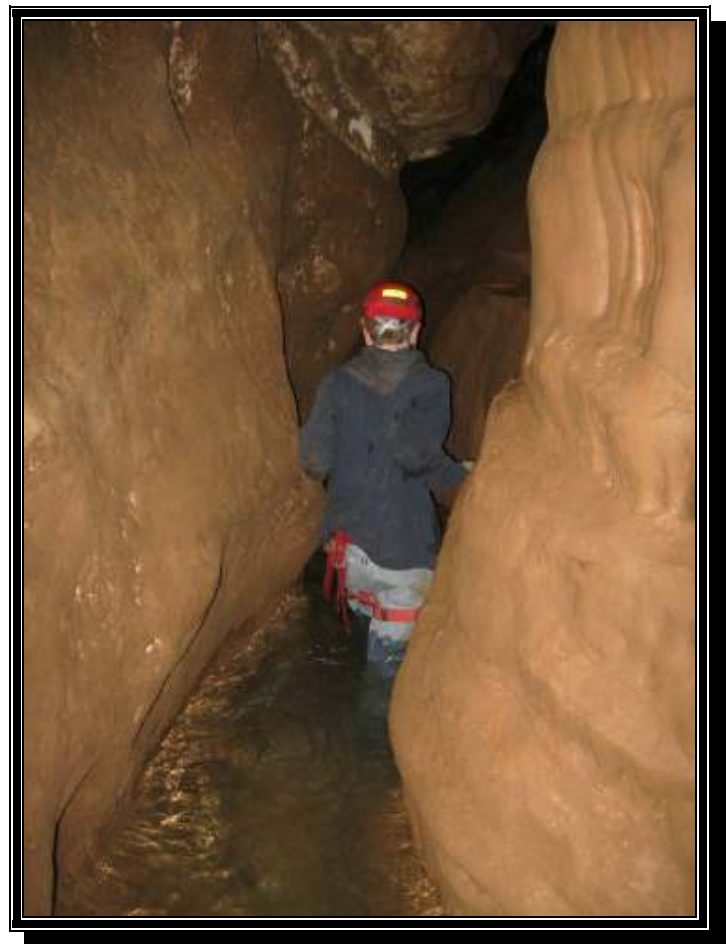
Tufa at Once Upon A Cave (BB)



Whitings Neck (TG)



Tufa at Once Upon A Cave (Dan Doctor)



Whitings Neck (Mike Ward)



At the back of the picture is a spring called Boiling Spring where most of the drainage in the south end of the county comes out in the Mill Creek (Dan D)





# SAVIN CALENDAR

## APRIL 5TH - MAY 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Apr 5</b> Grand Caverns Restoration Weekend  <b>EASTER</b>	Apr 6	Apr 7	<b>Apr 8</b>  Meeting 7pm	Apr 9	<b>Apr 10</b> Last Day for VAR Discount	<b>Apr 11</b> Baker Quarry Gate Repair
Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14	<b>Apr 15</b> TAX DAY Assault on the Apollo 8pm	Apr 16	Apr 17	Apr 18
Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21	<b>Apr 22</b>  <b>EARTH DAY</b>	Apr 23	<b>Apr 24</b> ARBOR DAY Spring VAR Natural Bridge Caverns, VA	<b>Apr 25</b> Spring VAR Hosted by BATS
VA Cave Week						
<b>Apr 26</b> Spring VAR Hosted by BATS  <b>VA Cave Week</b>	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	<b>May 1</b> DAY of PRAYER	May 2
May 3	May 4	<b>May 5</b> CINCO de MAYO	May 6	May 7	<b>May 8</b> SERA Cave Carnival	<b>May 9</b> SERA Cave Carnival Adam Stephen Day 9am
<b>May 10</b> SERA Cave Carnival 	May 11	May 12	<b>May 13</b>  Meeting 7pm	May 14	May 15	<b>May 16</b>  <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b>

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



SHELTER IN HARPERS FERRY, WV (BB)



## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS  
BOB BENNETT, BOB BENNETT, ED  
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR  
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344  
304-821-4621  
gimpycaver@comcast.net



**TO:**



**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**N.#30**

**I.#4**

**APR**

**2015**

**#62**