

SISTEMA HAUTLA, MEXICO

V#30

I#5

2015

P#63

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO

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(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

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

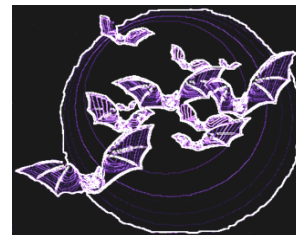
BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
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Grieta's Torture Chamber, Sistema Hautla, Mexico.

**** 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 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
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!



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GROTTTO.

All material for inclusion in the DEAD DOG
DISPATCH must be sent to the EDITOR NO BY THE
25TH OF EACH MONTH.

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

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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
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR

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V.#30

I.#5

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2015

#64

CAVE IN EVENTS

2015

Month of April ----- **\$36.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$5854.50**

MAY 1 ---- DAY of PRAYER
MAY 3 ---- Scout Cave Trip-see Jerry B
MAY 5 ---- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 6 ---- Eastern Panhandle Karst - 6pm - see John D
MAY 8-10 -- SERA Cave Carnival
MAY 9 ---- Adam Stephen Day - Natural Heritage Day
9am
MAY 10 ---- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 10 ---- GEPKS - 10am - see Bob B
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

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.

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

WEBSITE & GIVING 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/
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

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V.#30

I.#5

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#65

CAVING BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF MAY

Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson, Eric Berge, Stephen Bowen, Angela Durst, James Durst, Mary Eidukevicius, JC Fisher, Chase Griffin, Lucas Hanson, Greg McCoy, Pat Minnick, Josh Prusha, Steve Rexford, Miranda Slone, Trevor Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TRIP REPORTS

China trip 2015, 1st trip to Niubizi Dong:

After a long series of events too boring to explain such as emails, Skype calls, paperwork, airplanes, a lost bag, waiting in the Chongqing airport for 2 days, 6 hours of bus rides, & a bout with food poisoning, I found myself finally ready to start caving with Hong Megui at the Northern end of the San Wan Don-Er Wang Dong area. We got up around 9 AM for breakfast, which in this area is steamed rice, sprout noodles, lettuce, carrots, potatoes, & turnips. After breakfast our team geared up for a day re-rigging Niubizi Dong, last visited about 10 years ago. We set off along the muddy road towards the cave. At the top of the hill we could see the entrance in the side of the 600 foot deep Niubizi Tiankeng, at the time the highest entrance to Er Wang Dong.



However, we were still about 40 minutes of hiking away, with our host taking a machete & hacking a path down a steep hillside to the valley floor. Once at the bottom he hacked ahead along the hillside & we fortunately hit the trail used by saltpeter miners who knows how long ago.



We followed the ledge along the wall of the tiangkeng, with a 300 ft drop off to our right.





We came to a 30 ft diameter entrance in the cliff which had a wall of rocks made by miners. This cave pops back out onto the cliff within 100 ft. The path then goes through a 2nd short cave, back outside along the cliff, and then you reach the proper entrance of Niubizi Dong. The first few hundred feet is easy walking in 20-30 ft high passage.



We reached the 1st 30 foot pitch & a UK caver named Wookey rigged a redirect & rebelay, then the rest of us headed down. 2nd pitch was only 12 ft, 3rd pitch about 25 ft, passage between was all walking with a few short climb downs. After the 3rd pitch the known cave ends at the edge of a pit that appears very deep.

Wookey & a Canadian named Colin began setting bolts to descend into virgin passage. With all the milling around earlier we didn't get underground until afternoon, by now it was 7 PM & we began our retreat, ready to come back the next day & head into the unknown. We surfaced at sundown to cool temperatures & overcast skies. The hike back wasn't too muddy, but it would get far worse as the week went on. Back at the farm house dinner was similar to breakfast, but with a few variations such as tofu skins & mushrooms. I turned in around 11 PM, feeling less ill than earlier & ready for a longer trip the next day.

China Caving 2015, 2nd trip to Niubizi Dong:

After the previous rigging trip into Niubizi Dong the day before, I was feeling less lurgy (British slang for sick) and was ready for a longer trip. Another breakfast of rice, carrots & potatoes, the morning ritual of putting on cold damp clothes & Colin, Wookey, J.R., Deborah & I were off for some rigging & surveying in Niubizi Dong. We made good time to the entrance & got underground at a civilized time. Deborah stayed behind a bit to rig hand lines along slippery parts of the trail to the cave. Once in we dropped down the 1st 3 pitches & began re-surveying a bad section with Deborah & J.R.. Colin & Wookey went to start bolting down into virgin cave. After a few hours of surveying, JR & Deborah split off to check a high lead that yielded some good passage while I went to learn some bolting.

4th pitch was a fun series of short drops with rebelayes & hanging traverses along the wall. At the bottom was a pile of undisturbed animal bones. Just past here Colin & Wookey were starting to rig pitch 5. I got loaded up with the drill, batteries, slings, krabs (biners), wrench, bolts, & a skyhook. I set the

1st bolt for a traverse & then started gardening the dodgy rocks. 20 minutes later the pitch felt a bit safer & I set a 2nd bolt. From here the way on wasn't clear & I had a hard time figuring out the next bolt. I opted & retreat & let the veterans handle it. A wee while later the pitch was rigged with some more rebelay & traverses. I headed down to a j-hang & swung over to a landing on a sandy ledge. Our ledge appeared to have horizontal passage going off but in front of us was a huge funnel over 100 ft in diameter with a 150 ft ceiling above. We threw a big rock down the hole & estimated it was about 250 ft deep. At this point it was late & we were out of rope but were quite happy to make an exciting discovery. We surfaced past sundown after 8 hours underground to the skies going insane with fireworks on the 1st night of Chinese New Year.

by Nathan Roser

Adam Stephen Dig

Feb 14, 2015

By John DiCarlo, NSS25744

Martinsburg, WV-As people showed up we set up the dig. We pulled out the hose and ran it down the drop. Outside the fan was set up and started running. It was pumping fresh air to the dig site.



As we finished up with the fan, Keith came out of the cellar and said, "The rope is gone." I went in there and looked for myself and this is what I saw:



I had remembered us talking about needing another rope. I didn't know someone took it. We knew JC had brought one to the meeting, so we looked all over the place trying to find it. Bob called Tom and found out that he had the rope. His daughter had decided to get married on the day of the dig with two days notice to him. All other thoughts were out the window.



Keith Hammersla lunch ready for us

So with a low turnout and no rope, we had lunch and headed home early. It was calling for a major snowstorm that night and it was Valentine's Day.



A heart cake for our Valentine's Day Dig

We had a nice lunch and planned to be back in March.

Our helpers today were: Tyler Williamson, Josh Irvin, Ariana Foltz, Amber Foltz, Laura Glascock, Keith Hammersla, Bob Bennett, and John DiCarlo.



Our lunch time crowd

Blueberry Waffle Cave

By John DiCarlo NSS 25744

Berkeley County, WV--On Wednesday April 22, 2015 Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin and I went back to Waffle Sinks. We were heading to one sink that had the most promising lead. We could see a large hole heading down.



We climbed around in the sink moving vines out of the way. Bob passed an old Christmas tree to me, and I passed it out to Tom. We also pulled out a garden cart with some holes in it.



We started looking and shining our lights down in a few spots. There were a few large rocks on top of smaller rocks. To move them we had to do something with the large rock. Tom took his

hammer and chisel and started beating on the large rock. He would break out a piece and pass it up.



We had looked around and decided that another part of the sinkhole would be a good place to put the rock. It would be out of the way and not cover up anything that mattered.



As Tom beat on the rock it would slide down farther into the cave. As it did, Tom also passed up other pieces of rock that were there. Tom would pass it to me and I threw it into the pile.



His house had a sinkhole open up beside it years before he brought it. It had collapsed the foundation wall. It has all been repaired now. Yes, this is a sinkhole plain.

As Tom moved farther down, I also did, and Bob joined the line. Tom to me, me to Bob and Bob to the pile. It was amazing how fast we moved a lot of rock.



At one point Tom was making gravel out of the big rock, and Bob and I were standing beside the hole. A guy walked up from some nearby houses. His name was Jeff. He told us that he watches over the area we were in. He said we were fine with what we were doing.

Tom kept beating on the rock until it was small enough to pick up and throw on the pile. We

moved some more rock until we finished for the day. At this point we are an easy 15+ down and can see a lot further.

Tom G



We will be back another time to move some more rock. We see one large rock that should be moved and the rest are small rocks.

Grapevine Cave (Lost World Caverns)

Grapevine was nice. There were about 14 in all. I think there was a group from either Bald Eagle or Philly Grotto or both.

Terry was heading up the hill when we arrived. He went in first I went second. Every third person Terry climbed out. After everyone was in we did the wild section. That was about an hour and a half. Then Terry went out and dropped the rope since he has to pull it when no one is around it. Terri came with Terry to do the wild section also, she didn't do the drop.

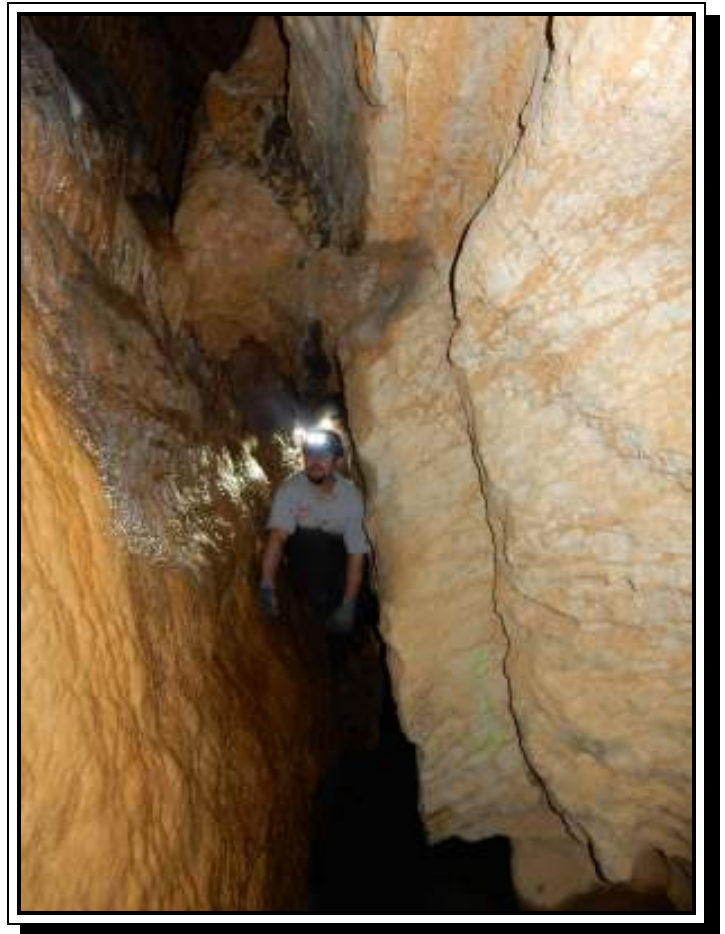
After my legs were good and tired from doing the wild section, Terry lowered the rope so I could climb it. I stopped 2 times for a good break and third just to take a look around. Terry said I did good on the time out, what-ever that was.

Then I dropped it again so Terri and I could walk out along the commercial trail.

The people there are very nice. Some groups went past while we were hanging around.



Welding gate at Baker Quarry (JerryB)



Todd coming back from the water in Carols Crack Cave (Jerry B)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#30

I.#5

MAY

2015

#72



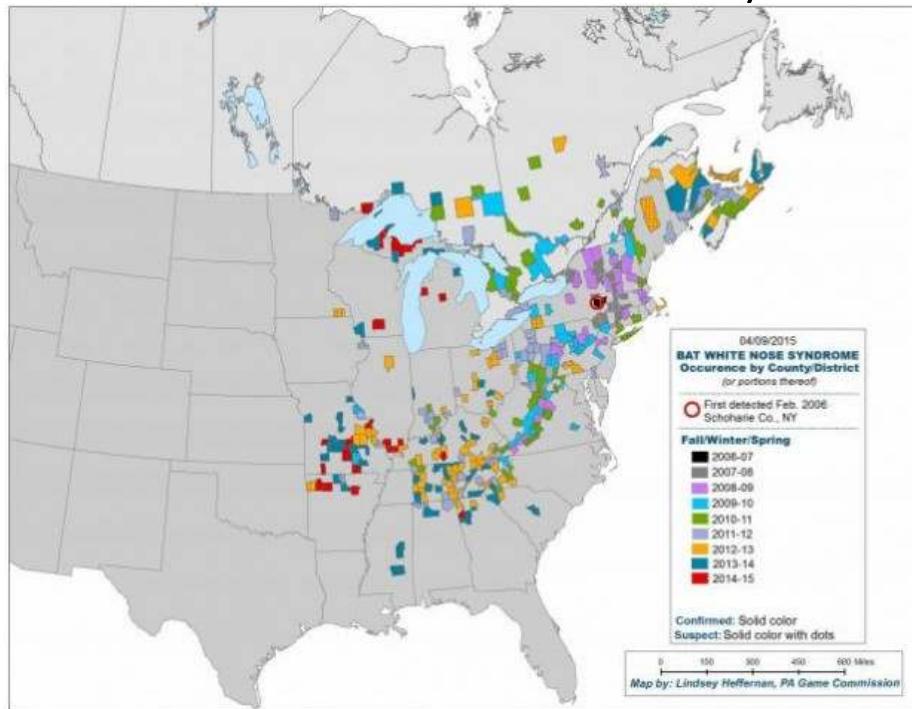
CAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 10TH - JUNE 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10 GEPKS 10am SERA Cave Carnival 	May 11	May 12	May 13 Meeting 7pm	May 14	May 15	May 16 ARMED FORCES DAY
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20 Assault on the Apollo 6pm	May 21	May 22 KY Speleofest	May 23 KY Speleofest
May 24 KY Speleofest	May 25 KY Speleofest MEMORIAL DAY	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
May 31	Jun 1 Convention Discount Deadline	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6
Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10 Meeting 7pm	Jun 11	Jun 12 Bubble Weekend Nancy Hanks	Jun 13 Bubble Weekend Nancy Hanks
Jun 14 Bubble Weekend Nancy Hanks FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 WV DAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Current WNS Map

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTO OF THE NSS
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TO:

