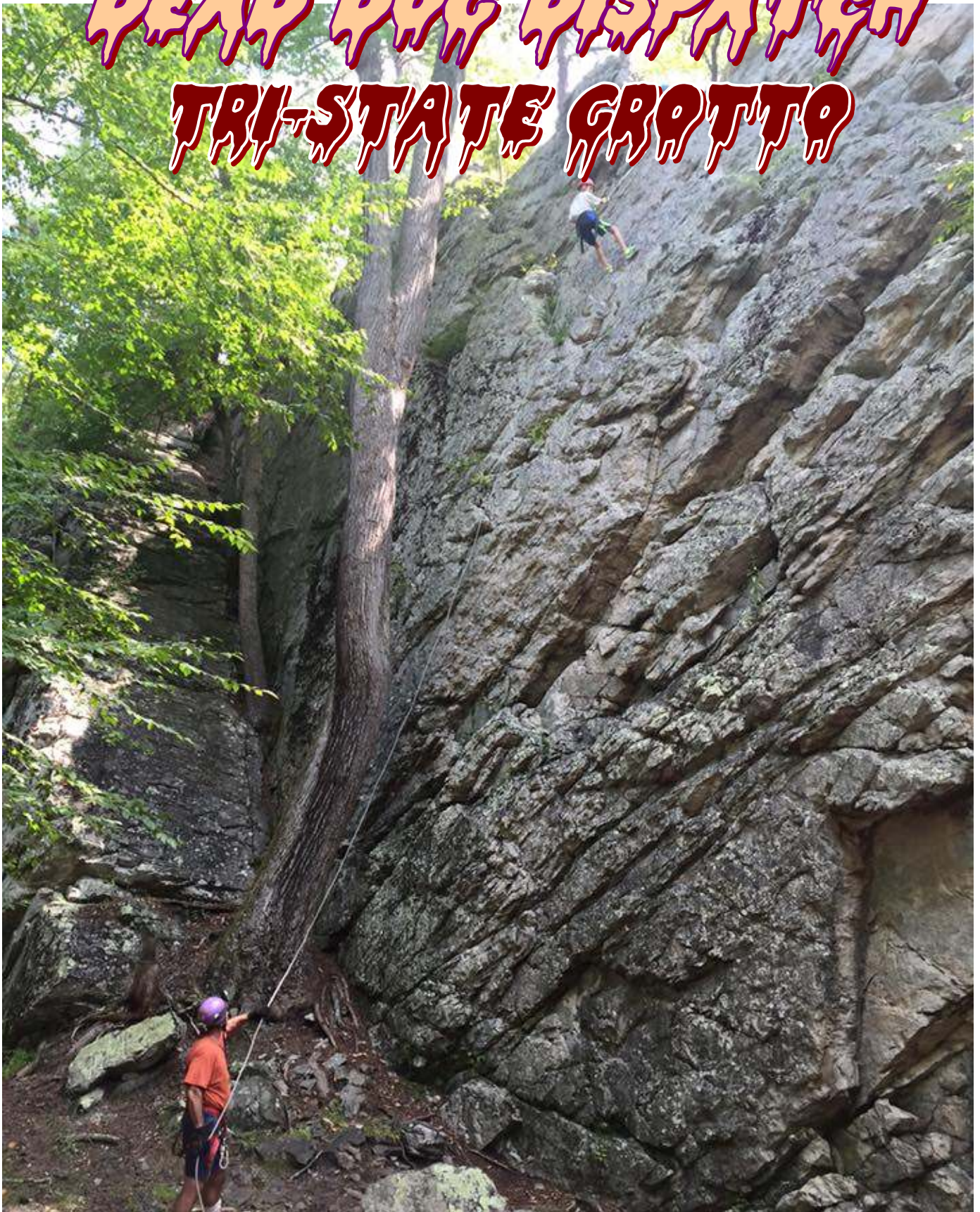


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



POWDER HORN AT CAMP ROCK ENON

VOL. #30

ISS. #9

SEP

2015

#113



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

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FULL MEMBERSHIP -----\$10.00 (Must be NSS)
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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
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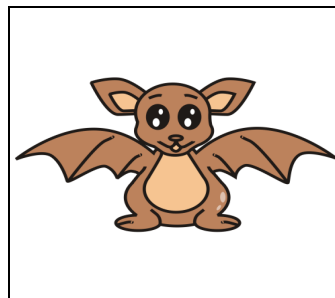
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*** The cover photo this month was taken by Mike Ward at the 2015 Powder Horn at Camp0 Rock Enon Boy Scout Camp near Winchester, VA.

**** 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

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!



CAVING EVENTS

2015

SEP 3-7 ---- OTR
SEP 5 ----- Doo Dah Parade
SEP 7 ----- LABOR DAY
SEP 11---- PATRIOT'S DAY
SEP 13 ---- GRAND PARENT'S DAY
SEP 23 ---- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 8-11 -- Fall TAG Cave-IN
OCT 12 ---- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 14 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm - Annual Auction
OCT 17 ---- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOW EVE (HALLOWEEN)
NOV 1 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 3 ---- ELECTION DAY
NOV 11 ---- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 11 ---- TSG MEETING - 7PM - Nomination of Grotto officers
NOV 14 ---- SADIE HAWKINS DAY
NOV 26 ---- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 27 ---- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 9 ----- TSG meeting - 7pm
DEC 12 --- Annual TSG Christmas Celebration at Bob & Paulette Bennett's home - 7pm
DEC 13 --- Holiday caving
DEC 22 ---- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ---- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ---- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ---- NEW YEAR'S EVE

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 August ----- \$19.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$5953.50

The money was sent to the

New River Preserve!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2015 ----- <http://nss2015.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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Dylan Alvarez, Twila Bracken, Art Hanson, Sr,
Matthew Majtyka, Morgan Majtyka, Ann Muldoon,
Tyler Ridgeway, Cheryl Suitor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#30

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SEP

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#115

TRIP REPORTS

Day: ? February 2015

Participants: Deborah Heyer, Dr. Yu,
Nathan Roser (All photos by Nathan)

After going to Niubizi Dong & Luoshui Kong I was excited to revisit either, but another cool cave popped up. Our host showed us some pictures on his phone he got a few days before from a horizontal cave a few hills away from the house. This guy had already demonstrated his excellent aimless machete chopping down a steep hillside skills when he took us straight to the overgrown path to Niubizi Dong with ease. So after breakfast Deborah, Dr. Yu, myself, and a 2nd Chinese caver who I forget the name of followed him along the road through the fog to the cave. It was an hour hike past some older wooden farmhouses, curious locals, and lots of goat poop to reach the cave.



The entrance is up a hillside shortly past a gravel pile that marks the end of where the road has been built so far.



Stone step shortcut



Dr Yu's wife

After some entrance documenting paperwork we slipped through the

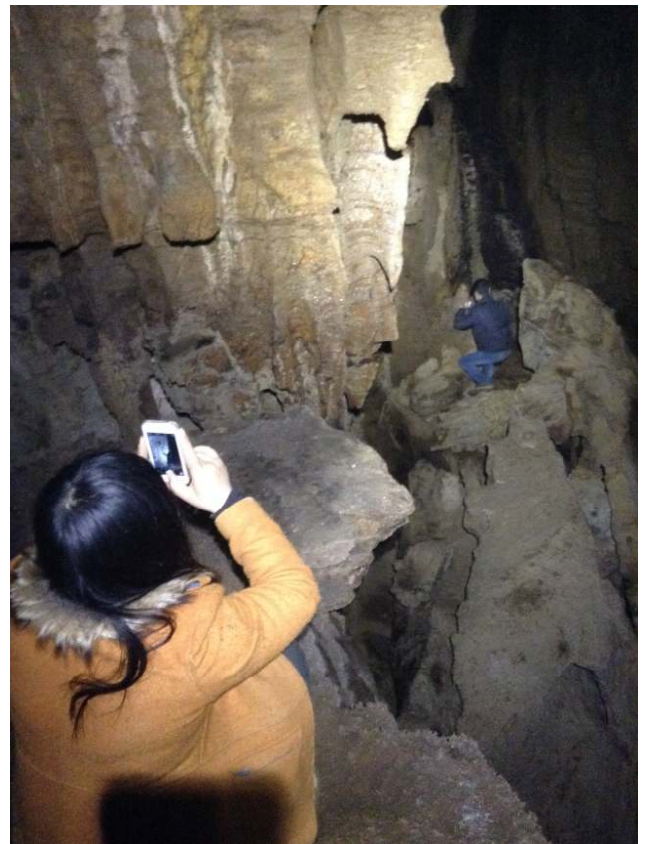
small hole which was sucking in air nicely. The 2 Chinese cavers had never surveyed before, so I got to help teach them instrument reading & station setting while Deborah sketched.



Dr Yu taking pics

Dr. Yu spoke a little English, Deborah spoke decent Chinese, I spoke no Chinese, and the 4th guy spoke no English. Made for interesting communication when calling out data. The entrance went down a mud slope into a passage 12 ft wide & 25 ft high. It then sloped back up to the other side of the room through a crawl with a ceiling of entirely cemented cobbles. A few body lengths of this & we were in a larger junction area about 70 ft wide by 30-40 ft high with many passages branching off. Progress was slow from new surveyors & language barriers, but it was great to teach new skills to cavers on the other side of the planet. We went left up onto a breakdown slope & saw the stalactites from the

pictures. There was also a bit of trash, turns out this a local spelunker favorite. We put a few shots over here, there was a formation lined chimneyable canyon with airflow to the left.



Straight ahead was 25 ft wide passage with a 30 ft deep canyon in the floor. Looked climbable with a flat floored bottom. By this time some spelunkers with i-phones for lights had ventured in. Our bright fancy caving headlamps made for some good pictures with them. We headed back to the junction & went for an area with more formations and a waterfall.

The spelunkers went ahead of us down some drafting crawlway. I did a sketchy climb in the waterfall to see if it went. Didn't go but there was a human sized opening in the ceiling with water coming out, lots of overhung bolting needed. We then put a few more shots down the crawl at the end & were ready to call it a day. However, as one spelunker tried to leave another started yelling at him in Chinese. I couldn't understand a word but it sounded distressed. We hadn't seen 2 of the other locals for awhile so I reckoned they were worried about them. I crawled off down a drain hole through flowstone & found them climbing back up. Soaked & covered in mud, shivering, but still had light & climbed out on their own just fine. After they got out I poked back down where they went. I got into a stooping stream way with perfectly intact formations & no footprints. It looks like locals frequent the cave but never venture in too far. With the airflow this one looks very promising. We exited at sundown & walked back in the dark playing some Soviet music & Django Reinhardt on my pocket speaker.



Yankauer Nature Preserve

(All photos by John)

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Falling Waters, WV-April 6 was a nice day and I had some free time. I had a few inside things to do, but it was so nice and calling for rain the rest of the week. Leaves would be coming out soon, making it too overgrown to see anything. I wanted to walk in an area where I had seen a cave opening before.

I parked at Yankauer Nature Preserve and walked down the road to where I would cut across a field before entering the woods. As I walked, I saw signs that Yankauer Nature Preserve extended down farther than I had realized.

Last time Bob Bennett and I were there, the spot was overgrown. It was summer.

I went into the woods and immediately came upon a trail. I walked up and back a little ways on the trail to lay some tracks in my GPS. This would help me keep track of where I was and where I looked. Going into the brush, I kept looking for the landmark beside the opening.

I did find a sinkhole with some openings. I GPS'd it and took some pictures.



First Sinkhole



One of the openings at the bottom of the first sinkhole.



This shows some of the fence wire in the sinkhole

Moving on through the woods, I checked the area. I did see a ditch that would take some water. I circled around it and found another sinkhole full of trash. The ditch came down to it and disappeared there. You could see it drained a large area of water. I GPS'd the sinkhole and shot some pictures.

I kept going and came out on a trail. Moving along the trail, I came to the intersection of South Trail and Dan Fisher Trail. Taking South Trail, I followed it back to where I entered the woods.



This is the second sinkhole I came across. This one was full of trash.



Intersection of Dan Fisher Trail and South Trail

Plunging back into the wooded area, I looked around and came back out. I moved down the trail and entered the woods again. I made a big circle and hit another trail. I moved down it and went off trail again. Working my way through, I found another sinkhole with an entrance at the bottom that looked promising. I GPS'd it and took some pictures.



Third sinkhole with a good opening at the bottom.



View of the Potomac River



Close up of the opening at the bottom of the third sinkhole.

I kept moving and came back upon the trail. I followed it around back to my beginning and stayed on it. I was done looking for the opening now and decided to check out the trails as I made my way back to my van.

I did see a lot of karst. I came to a bluff that overlooked the Potomac River and took a few pictures there.



This is the fourth sinkhole which also has an opening at the bottom. It has a nice interpretive sign next to it.

I took pictures and GPS'd each sign I came to. This would help with exploring the area, as it could help divide it into sections that could be looked over.

Following the trails, I made my way back to the pavilion and the parking lot. There was a map of the trails on an information board that I took a picture of too.



Map of Yankauer Nature Preserve

I think the sinkhole with the trash might be a good candidate for a cleanup. There were funds out there for the state to clean up trash out of sinkholes. I don't know if they still exist. It would not be an easy cleanup, as at this point it would be hard to access. Most of the trash could be carried out. I think the wagons we used at Crystal Grottoes Caverns would work nicely. The bad part is all the fence wire.

Someone asked why someone would throw wire in there. It was rolled up and flattened. I answered that it could be to block the entrance. Someone probably had cows here years ago and wanted to keep them out.

After all that, I did not find the opening that I was looking for. I'll be back.



Yankauer Nature Preserve

(All Photos by John)

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Falling Waters, WV-On Monday 4-13-15 I returned to Yankauer. I walked some of the trails that I had not walked before.

I had looked at where I had been and headed in a new direction. I followed a deer trail off the trail. I learned really quickly to grab a stick to help get through the brush. Keeping an eye on my GPS, I worked my way around through the woods.



I was following deer trails left and right. I came upon a sinkhole and stopped and took pictures. Of course I GPS'd the spot. I moved on through the woods. I continued till I came out on one of the trails. I had had enough of the off trails for the day and headed back. I came upon a trail I hadn't been on before and took it. As I got close to the pavilion, I decided to take the trail on the west side. I was told it was a short one. It was made for wheel chairs.



Monday 4-20-15 found me back at Yankauer again. My old GPS has coordinates that don't jibe with Google Maps. I carried it and my car GPS to get new coordinates that will work with Google. This time I only walked the trails. This will help in sectioning parcels off for exploration. A few trails I had to go over twice to link up each trail. It took me about an hour.

As I walked around I saw a big depression to my left. The grass was really green and thick down there. As I walked on the trail, I could see that it was a very large sinkhole. To my right I could see the property line for the neighbors.

I went down into the sink to GPS it and take pictures. I didn't see much trash in it, just a few rusty cans.

Bob Bennett told me that years ago he and Chuck pulled out a bunch of trash and found a little passage there.

I climbed back to the trail and saw another sinkhole covered with cut logs. Moving on, I finished the trail and made my way back to my van.

Critters Den Cave

(Photos by John)

By John DiCarlo NSS25744

Berkeley County, WV - Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin and I went to the Whittings Neck area on Wednesday, July22, 2015. I had found some things on a search for openings this past spring.

We started our trek on a long walk on some pathways through the woods. Along the way on a rocky part of the trail, Bob took a tumble. We saw his pant leg was ripped and bloody. Bob rolled up his pant leg and looked at his injury. It had taken a layer of skin off his shin. It was bleeding slightly. We asked him if he wanted to turn back and we would come back another time. He said no and took the lead down the trail. Tom found a nice walking staff for Bob and he took it and off we went.



Our hermit in the woods, Bloody Bob

I had GPS'd the opening and had my GPS in hand now watching the arrow. This was like looking for a geocache. Instead of finding a trinket we hoped to find a cave we could get into. I watched the arrow and it was pointing ahead of us. I was watching for the arrow to take a swing to the right as we went by it.

After a while I called out, "Guys, hold up, I think this is it." I passed Bob and Tom to see if the arrow would point behind us and the footage would start going up. It did. I walked back to Bob and Tom saying, "this is it."

The under brush was about waist deep here with a lot of greenbriers. I moved back down the trail where I had seen an entry point that we could take. This was just tall grass. Tom and I went ahead we angled off to the right. Tom went wide and I went a little shorter.

Tom came upon the opening and yelled out. I moved in his direction and had to go around one of the larger rock ridges. As I did, I saw a larger opening at the end of the ledge. Looking in and back out, I could see Tom was standing at the back door of this cave.



Critters Den Cave

Tom walked around and we called out to Bob that we had found it and that he could come on in. He did.

I went in the cave and looked around. I could see the back door and found it had a blowhole on top.



Tom Griffin in the mouth of the cave

Then Tom came down and started surveying it. At the back door, Tom found that there was a ground

hog hole that went down. Tom came out and Bob went down to check it out.

(Photo by Tom G)



John DiCarlo in the mouth of Critters Den Cave

The cave reminded us of a den. Tom looked around and said that he didn't see any fur or bones anywhere. We finished up and Bob and I made our way back through the waist-high brush. Tom circled around the opposite way looking for more openings.



Bloody Bob Bennett

Bob and I made our way to the trail and yelled out to Tom that we were starting to move down the trail back to where we parked. Tom eventually caught up to us. We were on our long trek back through the woods. We were happy that we found something new in Berkeley County without digging.

PREVIEW



(Photo by Art Jr)



(Photo by Twila B)



CAVIN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 6TH - OCTOBER 17TH

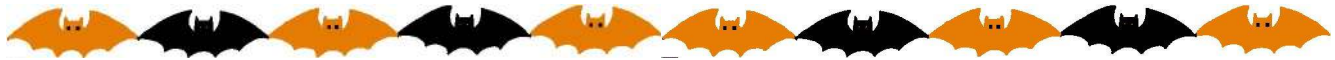


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 6 QTR	Sep 7 QTR LABOR DAY	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11  Patriot's Day	Sep 12
Sep 13 GRAND PARENT'S DAY	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19
Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23  EQUINOX	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26
Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3
Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7	Oct 8 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 9 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 10 Fall TAG Cave-In
Oct 11 Fall TAG Cave-In	Oct 12 Fall TAG Cave-In COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 13	Oct 14  Meeting 7pm Annual Auction	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17 Bridge Day

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Middle Earth (Jerry B)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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