

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



CAVE VALLEY CAVE, WHITE PINE CO, NV

VOL. #31

ISS. #8

AUG

2016

#107



(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:

The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a publication of the **TRI-STATE GROTTO** of the NSS. The OPINIONS expressed herein are not necessarily those of the EDITOR, the GROTTO, 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.

JERRY BOWEN, TREASURER
 TRI-STATE GROTTO of the NSS
 17817 STONE VALLEY CR.
 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
 301-465-2651

E-MAIL: bookmaker-jb@mvactv.net

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
 TRI-STATE GROTTO of the NSS
 464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
 GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
 304-821-4621

E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

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**.

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

*** The cover this month is of Cave Valley Cave, White Pine Co, NV. The photo was taken by Tom Griffin.

TRI-STATE GROTTO 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-- --
 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 ----

**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **STILL** available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. There is only a couple left! 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

*****0 LEFT!*****

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!



TRI-STATE GROTTO 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**

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#8

AUG

2016

#108

CAVING EVENTS

2016

AUG 4-7 --- Indiana Cave Capers
AUG 10 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
AUG 11 ---- YMCA trip to Jones Quarry -10:30 am
AUG 13-14 --- Finish fencing Sites & Cave Rat
Caves – see Earl Sutor
AUG 20 --- Annual TSG picnic - Blue Ridge
Acres, Harpers Ferry, WV - 12pm
SEP 1-5 --- OTR
SEP 3 ----- Doo Dah Parade - 10am
SEP 5 ---- LABOR DAY
SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY
SEP 14 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
SEP 23 --- Fall MAR, Woodward Cave, PA
SEP 23 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX
SEP 30-OCT 2 ---- Fall VAR - Poor Farm Park,
Greenbrier Co, WV
OCT 6-9 --- Fall TAG Cave-In - Lookout Mt, GA
OCT 12 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
OCT 15 --- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- All Hallows Eve (Halloween)
NOV 9 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkin's Day
NOV 24 --- THANKS GIVING DAY
NOV 25 --- BLACK FRIDAY

***** 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 JULY ----- \$35.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6271.50

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 2016 ----- www.nss2016.caves.org/
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
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 AUGUST

Matthew Amundson, Jerry Bowen, John DiCarlo,
Julie Garvin, Carol Jackson, David Knox, Shannon
Griffin Miranda, Joe (JJ) Pate, David Robinson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#8

AUG

2016

#109



TSG Meeting 7/13/16

Pre meeting:

- Next Wednesday night caving and who did the drop at WNC. Pictures on Facebook.
- Bat and Barnes – NSS article. Donald Arrowood has bats in his barn. We discussed how can contract rabies.
- There was discussion on employing a digging bar at Harpers Ferry Cave.

John called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Opening announcements:

-Members at the NSS Convention:

-Bob and Paulette camper/staying in motels for repairs.

-No treasurer report. Jerry helping flood victims

New business:

- Club picnic mentioned to be held August 20th with directions (340 up Chestnut Rd. to the right). Swim, Kayak, good water area.
- Haven't heard from JC for computer.
- We talked about things the grotto may need. Rope? Kevin Hughes had harnesses for ten dollars each. Harness liability came up with proof of abilities with ropes and harnesses. Tim Jordan suggested that TSG buy new gear and keep a record when used with member use only without 'loss of faith'.
- Continuing discussion on vertical caving. Which ascender to avoid – use Petzel. Bring this subject up at next meeting.
- Plan a Wednesday night caving of vertical practice. Practice at Shepherdstown Cliffs was suggested.
- Tom suggested a walking system or a frog system – something that can be experimented with while teaching the ropes.
- We talked about BATS and VBATS and real bats
- OTR's Doo Da Parade. Create a float and a bar with libations.

Who's New:

Mary: no experience

Arron: no experience

Trips:

- Adam Stephens Dig brought up 60 buckets. There were no new discoveries but they were getting to breakdown and making progress. Drilling gear is needed. Rope skill is also needed for the last ten feet. More digs coming October and November.
- Cornwell Cave mentioned during fall VAR discussion held by the Greenbrier Grotto September 30 to October 2.
- WNC had a grotto trip that started in the second entrance while some cavers entered on the first entrance. John and his grandson, Adam, did the first and second drop with other TSG members.
- The gating of Keller Cave – so kids do not get lost. You will need permission visit and is in the Toms Brook area.
- Needs of Baker Field House which is reported in poor condition but is a gateway location. It's in need of power, running water and an outhouse. A VAR could be held there.
- Carol's Crack was mentions with digging needs.
- An underground rescue in a North Carolina gold mine, which was in operation in the 1900's.
- Franklin Trip at Thorn Springs Campground was Hamilton, Key and McCoys Mill caves. Participants in the Hamilton trip was Tim Jordan, Doc Phillips, Dave Dill and his son Guy with Scott Graham and Becky.
- Invite to upcoming trip to possibly visit Breathing and /or Crossroads Cave.
- There was discussion of the Sites and Cave Rat Cave fencing project. Volunteers needed for two work weekends in mid-July and mid-August. Do not bother owner and use the old road.
- John announced a trip Thursday morning to Jones Quarry and ten am on July 14.
- Cave bucks collection
- Wednesday night caving in two weeks on July 27
- Go to Dead Dog or Chapman with lots of Dead Dog stories.
- Decided to go to a new cave called Bear Cave which brought up the subject of alligators in Florida caves. 100 Holes and Quarry caves were discussed
- Decision on Wednesday night caving was to be held in two weeks at six pm.
- Meet at the waffle House – details on Facebook.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#8

AUG

2016

#119

- \$35 in cave bucks was collected.
- Call for any other business

John adjourned the meeting at nine o'clock PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Sub-Secretary
Doc Phillips

Trip Report: A Mid-Summer Eve Caving Weekend.

On the last weekend in June, a group of cavers met at Thorn Springs Campground. The campground was crowded by a 4-H event but by nightfall they all cleared out and we began to set up camp. Dave Dill, his son Guy, Tim Jordan and myself set up a very comfortable camp. A group of climbers from the DC area came in later on and pleasantries were exchanged.

The morning temperature and humidity were excellent and a hardy breakfast was prepared. We still had to wait for the rest of our troop to arrive so we donned our cave helmets and walked to McCoy's Mill cave, which is just up the road from the campgrounds. The cave back in the early 90's was mostly a daylight cave but apparently now goes much farther then I remembered. I waited at the entrance while Tim, Guy and Dave went further in.

By the time we got back to our campsite, Scott and Becky arrived expecting us to meet them at the Trout Rocks parking area. Fortunately Trout Rocks is not far from Thorn Springs so catching up was not a problem. Off we were to cave.

We gear up and started up the mountain when we encountered the Suitor's rebuilding the covered sign up area. After greetings and signing in, we headed up the mountain. It got warmer as we climbed and a slow-down was eminent. We were all relieved to get into the cool of Hamilton Cave. We all gathered in the front room after the entrance and traveled to the register room. Unfortunately the register was muddied and not useable. We made it to the mudroom and enjoyed not only viewing the sculptures there but created a few of our own. I like making either a plate with burgers and fries or a tiny toilet out of clay. Everyone else had their own

creativity take over so some new additions have been added.

It has been a while since I did the long crawl to the big slab room so I had difficulty finding that 'straight ahead-to the left passage'. By then the air seemed used up and the energy waned so to keep it a safe trip, we made our way to the upper maze.

The front of the cave, once you get past the register room has many different formations and is just the right amount of maze not to get lost in. Pictures were taken, discoveries were made and off we were to our cars. Tim and I stopped and gave assistance to the Suitors taking shingles to the parking area.

Scott and Becky headed for home and the rest of us went into Franklin for dinner. Fried chicken and Italian subs were in order and back at camp we relaxed with story swapping and guitar playing.

The next morning we broke down camp, got a car started, and by midday headed for Kee Cave. The WVDOT built a new guardrail that made it a lot safer to walk to the cave. Tim, Dave, Guy and I saw a good portion of Kee Cave skipping the deep formation room. The caves register was in the same, if not worse, condition as the Hamilton register so we could not sign in. Again, pictures were taken and discoveries were made and then we headed back to our cars.

Dave and Guy headed home and Tim and I went to my favorite Mexican Restaurant in Harrisonburg. Great weather, great caves, great cavers, great friends – what more could anyone hope for.

Donald 'Doc' Phillips





Photos by Scott Graham

Alabama Pitting

Well, here it is April and I haven't been to a new hundred foot pit since last October at the TAG Fall Cave-in. So a while back I contacted Andy Zellner, who has a weekend residence in Jackson County, Ala, to see if he might be able to remedy my dilemma. Andy has been a major player in TAG caving since the early nineties, and a good friend of mine for over two decades. I had earlier provided him with a list of TAG hundred footers I have yet to visit. Of the 450 or so hundred footers in TAG, I've been to about 95% of them, so that leaves about twenty that I haven't seen. Most of these have access issues, but Andy seemed to think we could probably at least get in a few. We experienced some mutual scheduling problems and eventually had to settle on Easter weekend.

I arrived at Andy's house around 8AM Saturday and we wasted no time getting started. Our first stop was actually in Franklin County, Tenn., just over the Alabama line. After a five hundred foot elevation gain Andy easily located the entrance to Rusty's Resounding Rock Drop. For a long time

Rusty's was thought to be just a 117' pit with a very tight entrance. Recently it has been extended by Indiana cavers to a depth of over 400 feet. The Indianians forced multiple constrictions to accomplish this, and also made the tight entrance much more accommodating. Andy said that bouncing the entrance pit was affording me the nicest part of the cave. He also volunteered that Marion's only comment on the cave had been "what a suckhole", so I opted to do just that, bounce the entrance pit.

On our way off the mountain we stumbled onto the concealed entrance to a small cave. I'm not much of a tech person (in fact only Marion may be less so than I), but the TCS (Tennessee Cave Survey) has an app which allowed Andy to draw up on his phone topo maps showing all reported caves in the state. I was impressed. Our little find was not shown, so we assumed it to be virgin and named it Twin Trees Cave. It had about 65 feet of passage in two directions, and ended at a six foot deep soil sump pit without detectable air.

We next dropped back down into Alabama where we would spend the rest of the weekend. Our second hundred footer of the day involved another five hundred foot elevation gain. Fly Hole turned out to be a fairly nice 106' dead bottom pit. Nearby, and at the same elevation, was a spacious 65 footer called Snowflower Pot. For a shallow pit, it was quite impressive.... kind of a mini-TAG classic.

For our last stop of the day, Andy took me to a large cluster of pits in the vicinity of Low Gap in northern Jackson County, Ala. Thankfully there was no elevation gain here, just a mile hike contouring along the contact. It was not a boring hike as karst features abounded, any of which would have counted as caves in our neck of the woods. We passed over a dozen that did not qualify as caves in Alabama, even though the ACS (Alabama Cave Survey) recently down-graded to include any combination of vertical or horizontal totaling fifty feet as a qualifier. Using the old system, a 40 foot pit measuring 10 feet across would not have qualified. In the new format this same 40 foot pit would count (40 deep + 10 horizontal = 50). There are many hundreds of such small pits on the slopes of the Cumberland Plateau in north eastern Alabama.

Potomac Grill Shelter

Our Raid on Harpers Ferry

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

Harpers Ferry, WV- Wednesday night caving found us in downtown Harpers Ferry, WV. We parked in the train station parking lot. Some of us also parked on the street.



Adam Oates shows us the entrance pillar

We were there to check out Potomac Grill Shelter. We met up in a group and climbed the hill. Soon we were inside the cave. Looking around we could see that someone had done some masonry work in places in the cave. The way the rock laid, it looked like the cave was modified.



Stonework at a high spot in the back

There was a pool in most of the Cave. It had at least four springs feeding it. At one time there was a gate on the cave. It has been removed and is in the Potomac Grill.



Looking out of the opening of the cave entrance, you can see the Harpers Ferry Train Station

It looks to me like someone did work on the cave to use as a springhouse in the days before electricity.

This is an "L" shaped room. We checked out every crack in the cave to see if it goes, or could be dug. We didn't think so.



Looking up the left corner spring

There was sediment dirt on the floor. Unfortunately we didn't have Doc's needle to probe the floor. I'm guessing it may have had shelves to set things on to keep cool. It would be neat to dig out the floor. Who knows what we might find.



The spring that is left of the center spring

Everyone had a chance to look around and walk through the water. Afterwards, some people left, while others remained to survey the cave.



Tom Griffin gets a reading

Starting at the entrance Tom Griffin took a shot into the cave. Hitting the back wall he turned left and hit a spot that Tim was marking with his light.

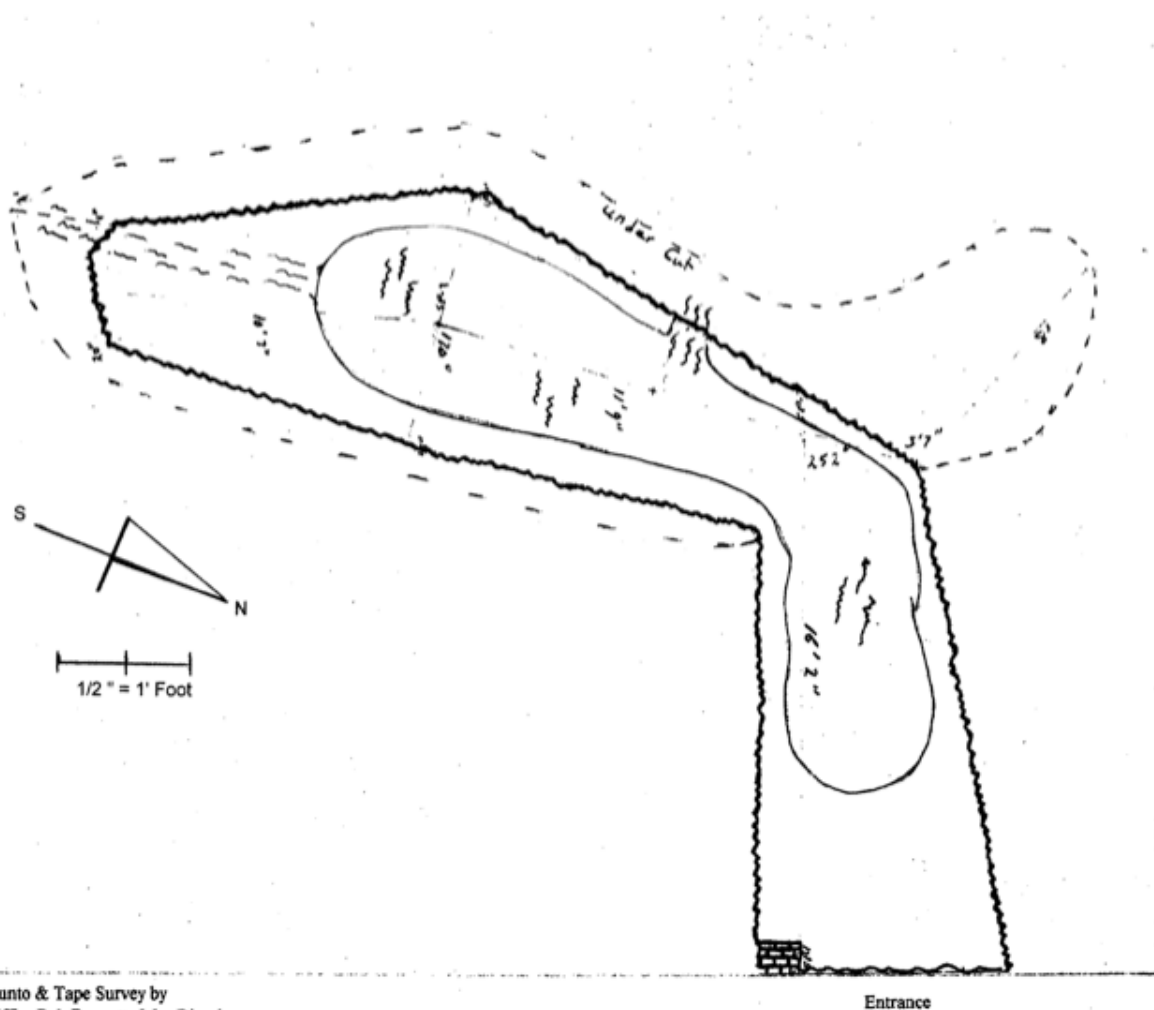


Tim Jordan lights up a spot for a measurement. Note the pool beside him.

After moving to different spots in the cave Tom Griffin had his measurements. Tom took his numbers home and drew up this map.

Afterward we had planned to get ice cream in town. The shop was closed. So we just stood around and talked before heading on.

time.



Suunto & Tape Survey by
Tom Griffin, Bob Bennett, John DiCarlo
Tim Jordan, Doc Phillips, Jerry Bowen
May 18, 2016

Wednesday Night Caving Doing the drops at Whitings Neck Cave June 15, 2016

By John DiCarlo NSS 25477

Whitings Neck, WV-We showed up at our Grotto parking spot and placed our parking permits in our windows. We planned on doing the two drops in Whitings Neck Cave.

We suited up, and started our hike through the high grass and woods. We passed the front door of Whitings Neck Cave and continued on to the second entrance.



Doyle Garvin and Tom Griffin at the top of the first drop

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#8

AUG

2016

#115

Climbing down into the sinkhole we gathered round the opening. Turning on our lights we started in. There were a few spots that Adam Oates was too short to reach. We helped him when he needed it. At one point Adam couldn't reach a handhold to climb up a slope. I grabbed his lower legs and slid him up until he could grab on to something.



Doyle Garvin coming down the first drop

We made our way through until we were at a large stalactite at the top of the first drop. Others had gone down the rope before us. It was Adam, Tom Griffin, Doyle and I left on top.

We tied Adam in and told him to slide down the slope to the drop. He did that without too much of a problem. He got to the drop and Tom told him to go over it. Adam was hesitant and a little scared. We told him to go over and he said, "No, I don't want to." Tom told Adam, "Let go and feel that the rope has you." Adam did that and said that the rope did have him. He still was a little intimidated. He said he didn't want to do it. We told him it was too late, that he was already down there. Adam slowly

made his way over the edge. Now he was headed down. Do realize that Adam just turned nine.

He yelled out, "This is fun!"

Adam made his way down. Then I went, Doyle followed and Tom last.



Jerry Bowen

Getting everything together at the bottom of the drop, we free climbed a wall and made our way to the main passage. We followed it to the room with the larger drop. Here we stopped to let Sean Hogbin, his sister and a few of his other friends climb up their rope. They were there before us and had already done the drops and checked out the passages down below. That's where the prettiest formations of the cave were. Now they were climbing back up.



Sarah waiting for her turn to climb up the rope

One of them would come up and one of us would go down. We kept that up until both parties had swapped places. This time Adam did a lot better. He had gotten over his fear and now was having fun. As different ones came down I took pictures of them.



Tom Griffin coming down the second drop

We explored a bit before we ran into Doc and Tim. We followed them back to the bottom of the drop. Again, I bridged the pool and helped Adam get by.



Adam Oates coming down the second drop

Everyone made it down and we did a little exploring. Again Adam's size made it hard for him. Trying to get past the pond, just past the bottom of the slope, he couldn't reach over to the opposite wall to get by. I got him up on the ledge, then put my back on the opposite wall, and had him walk on my feet. He got to where he couldn't make it further, and Tom came over and helped. With both of us working together, we got him through it.



Adam Oates and Tim Jordan

We took turns going up the drop. Tom had to help me get my gear straight. After everyone was up we pulled up the rope. One by one we headed down the passage to the main entrance. Climbing out we were hit with high humidity, and could tell it had rained while we were in the cave.



Doc taking a break

We walked back to the vehicles and redressed. As one of the guys pulled out in his pickup, the water poured out of the bed. It must have really rained hard while we were in the cave. We had hoped to do both caves, but it was so late, we headed home. We didn't get home till after 11 pm. Everyone had a good time.



VAR T-shirt received honorable mention at the NSS Convention (Photo by Tom G)



Tom in the entrance of Rose Guano Cave, NV
(Photo by Terri Griffin)



McCoys Mill Cave (Photo by Doc)



philipmullin.com



GANN CALENDAR

AUGUST 7TH - SEPTEMBER 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 7 Indiana Cave Capers	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10  Meeting 7pm	Aug 11 Jones Quarry Cave YMCA	Aug 12	Aug 13 Finish fencing Sites & Cave Rat Caves
Aug 14 Finish fencing Sites & Cave Rat Caves	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20 TSG Annual Grotto picnic at Blue Ridge Acres river front - 12 noon
Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27
Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1 OTR	Sep 2 OTR	Sep 3 OTR
Sep 4 OTR	Sep 5 OTR LABOR DAY	Sep 6	Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10
Sep 11 PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14  Meeting 7pm	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Kathy Robinson in Red Run Cave (Photo by Johnny Robinson)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS
BOB BENNETT, BOB BENNETT, ED
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344
304-671-0344
gimpycaver@comcast.net



TO:



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#8

AUG

2016

#129