

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



Chris Coates taking in some of the scenery which adorns
Reincarnation Corridor near camp 1 in Kimble Pit (Nikki Fox)

VOL. #31

ISS. #12

DEC

2016

#157



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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.

**** The cover this month was taken by Nikki Fox in Kimble Pit, Germany Valley, Pendleton Co, WV.**

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**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **GONE!**. There are none left! If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT 304-821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** E-MAIL at gimpycaver@comcast.net
The copy will cost \$4.00 each!

*******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 GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
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CAVE IN EVENTS

2016

DEC 3 ---- Annual TSG Christmas Celebration
- Bedington Ruritan - 6pm
DEC 3 ---- Jones Quarry - John's Hopkins - 10am
DEC 3 ---- Whittings Neck - Dave Culver & Tom G
- 11:30 am
DEC 7 ---- Baker Caverns - see Doc - 6:30pm
DEC 14 --- TSG meeting - 7pm - Elections
DEC 18 ---- Annual TSG Holiday Cave Trip
DEC 21 ---- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 ---- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 ---- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 ---- FRG New Year's Eve Party - see
Twila & Pete Bracken - 6pm
DEC 31 ---- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2017

JAN 1 ---- NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 11 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
JAN 16 --- Martin Luther King Jr Day
JAN 24 ---- TSG Birthday!!!
JAN 26-29 - Carter Caves Adventure Weekend
FEB 2 ---- Ground Hog Day
FEB 8 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 20 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB 28 --- Fat Tuesday
MAR 8 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
MAR 12 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS
MAR 14 --- PI DAY
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 --- VERNAL EQUINOX
MAR 24 --- MD Day
APR 1 ---- All Fool's Day
APR 2 ---- PB&J Day
APR 12 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm
APR 14 --- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 15 --- TAX DAY
APR 16 --- EASTER
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY
APR 28-30 --- Spring VAR - Thorn Springs

***** 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 NOVEMBER ----- **\$23.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$6382.50**

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

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF DECEMBER

Priscilla Armer, Mark Boland, Brent Jefferson,
Carlyn Pate, Janey Pate, Evert Bonito Vis, Grace
Ziegler

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REPORTS

TSG Christmas Celebration 2016

On December 3rd Tri State Grotto had their Christmas Party. It was decided about 2 months out that we would invite some of our landowners with caves. It was also decided to recognize the Monger family for their kindness with cavers. Cavers for many years at least as long as Vivian Monger has owned the property and cave would either call and show up or just show up to go caving. For these



efforts and the timing of the National Speleological Society to start up the Land Owner Relations Committee we were able to submit to the NSS LORC an application that was excepted with a return of the LORC

Certificates to be presented to Ted Allen and Vivian Monger.



Bob Bennett presented the certificates to Ted and Vivian during the party. They seemed very grateful for receiving the certificates. Sometimes a

little thought and appreciation is all it takes to keep land owner relation alive.

Jones Quarry cave is the cave the Mongers own. This is a very important cave to our area due to the history of Indian remains that were found. Tri State has managed the cave solely for a few years to assist in keeping the cave open. Tri State in agreement with the Mongers only allows 2 trips a month on weekends with stipulations.



A little story Vivian Monger said after receiving the award. Her Great Uncle took her caving as a teenager. In 1992 not realizing it, Vivian purchased the quarry and cave. This was the same cave her Great Uncle took her caving in as a teen ager. Yes we could look in land records, she did not know how long her Uncle owned the quarry. A special thanks to Kat Crispin the NSS AVP and Julie Schenk Brown LORC Chairman for making all this happen.

Tom Griffin (photos by TG)

Kimble Pit Cave

When you think of Pendleton County's Germany Valley, images of Schoolhouse and Hellhole immediately come to mind. These two caves have been icons in American caving since before the mid-twentieth century. In addition to their historic significance, recent efforts over the past fifteen years by the Germany Valley Karst Survey (GVKS) have vaulted Hellhole into a forty mile plus cave system, making it the second longest in West Virginia. Work over the same period by GVKS has also produced a second valley giant in Memorial Day Cave (MDC). Memorial Day currently ranks among the half dozen longest in the state, with over 26 miles of mapped passages. Today the saga of cave exploration in Germany Valley continues, and while it doesn't quite yet rival the two giants, there's a "new kid" in the valley....Kimble Pit Cave.

The entrance to Kimble Pit has been known for several decades, but it was basically off-limits until just a few years ago. My first opportunity to visit it was back in 2003 when brief access, coinciding with the sanctioned resurveys of neighboring Schoolhouse and Hellhole, was granted by the owner for the purpose of mapping what little cave was known to exist at the bottom of the entrance pit. This consisted of about 500 feet of narrow fissure which was followed down-dip to a too-tight drain. With the map "completed", the cave was once again declared closed. About three years ago the property was purchased by John and Honey Harman, longtime Germany Valley residents and parents of GVKS caver John Harman. This ushered in a period of epic activity which is showcasing Kimble Pit as one of the genuine contenders for the crown of underground prince of the valley.

The survey of Kimble is rapidly filling in much of the empty space at the northern end of Germany Valley. Most of the work is being spearheaded by the trio of Adam Byrd, John Harman, and Corey Hackley. Aaron Moses and Gilly Elor have also been on quite a few trips and have made considerable contributions towards exploration and survey. About a dozen other cavers

have been involved to a somewhat lesser degree. The efforts of these folks have, within just a couple of years, yielded nearly eight miles of surveyed cave, boasting some of the most well decorated passages and rooms to be found anywhere in the state.

There is a price to be paid for the privilege of basking in the beauty and serenity of the inner corridors of Kimble. It is a difficult cave to explore. In my opinion, getting to and exiting from either of the two camps in Kimble is, foot for foot, more arduous than getting to camp in either MDC or Hellhole, even though the distance is less. There are eight rigged drops, six down and two up, on the way to camp2. That in itself is not too bad for the vertically inclined, but there is a noticeable shortage of anything resembling strolling passages separating the pits. Survey beyond camp2 involves more rope work, with up to eight additional climbs and rappels depending on the destination, though the passages are much easier to negotiate. I have only been involved in exploration and survey past camp 2 on three occasions so far, but each time upon exiting I have felt as tired, if not more so, than I have after exiting either Hellhole or MDC.

The following description from our Thanksgiving (2016) trip will hopefully convey the nature of the Kimble experience. This was my seventh time in the cave, but only the third camp trip. There would be eight participants, which I think is the most ever for either camp on a single trip. John Harman, Adam Byrd, and Cassandra Mosley entered late Friday (25th) morning in order to do a bolt climb that would provide us with another lead we could survey. Chris Coates and Nikki Fox entered around mid-afternoon Friday. Mark Hare and Elliot Guerra-Blackmer (both members of the West Virginia University Student Grotto) entered with me last. We started in around 5PM and I figured it might take as long as five hours to reach camp 2.

The entrance pit to Kimble drops 169 feet total. The first 144 feet is pretty much vertical with a hanging rebelay about two thirds of the way down a saddle interrupts the pit at the 144 foot level, after which a further 30 foot rappel puts you on the bottom. There are over sixteen pits throughout the cave, but the entrance is the only hundred footer,

although at least one dome has been distorted at over a hundred feet high.

A narrow muddy fissure extends from the bottom of the entrance pit and trends upwards to a tight vertical slot rigged with a cable ladder. From the base of the ladder the fissure continues down-dip to a climbdown. This is where the routes of the original survey (03) and the post Harman survey diverge. Instead of continuing downward, step across the climbdown and follow the narrow fissure upwards. Early exploration by Corey, John, Adam, and Aaron Moses revealed a circuitous route through the mid-levels of the cave, including one horrendous mud crawl, which looped back to a breakdown blockage just a bit higher than the bottom of the up-trending fissure. On my fourth visit to Kimble (all yo-yo trips) John and Corey positioned me below the blockage while they scurried through the cave to a position thought to be just above me. My purpose was to serve as a beacon so they could be absolutely certain they were in the correct spot to dig. They worked from above while I moved rocks out of the way from below and soon the blockage had been cleared. Thus a major obstacle to future exploration was eliminated by providing a shortcut which saved an hour of extra scrambling and knocked out one very nasty mud crawl. The breakdown connection was dangerously loose so Corey and John spent the next couple of trips installing a corrugated culvert to stabilize everything. This has held up very well so far.

Above the culvert a short climb up over breakdown leads to the top of a room, then a brief scramble down to one of the few short walking segments encountered enroute to camp 1. A small window soon opens into the top of a fifteen foot rigged pit. This is followed by a second short walking section to a step around over a canyon. Now the passage slopes upwards to an incised meander which ends at a twenty foot rappel. A multi-level canyon continues ahead and soon evolves into the beginning of Justice Canyon.

The route through Justice Canyon was originally pioneered by Corey, Adam, and John. It qualifies as one of the major obstacles in Kimble. There is really nothing quite like it in all the many miles of Hellhole or Memorial Day. It is a multi-level canyon traversed on mostly slippery muddy ledges and totaling about 300 feet in length. There

are two traverse lines strung between about a dozen bolts. It starts with a short up rope that gets you to a ceiling channel with a ledge wide enough to scoot a large pack along. Most of the canyon is best done slowly (and safely) clipped in from bolt to bolt along the safety line with your pack tethered securely beneath you. Anything which might fall to the floor of the canyon would be very difficult to retrieve. About a third of the way through, a twenty foot rappel drops you down to a somewhat roomier level. Near the halfway point the safety lines are interrupted by a free traverse over wedged breakdown for about fifty feet. Beyond this the traverse continues with safety lines to the end at a point about 25 feet above the canyon floor. Most of the canyon is coated in mud and is especially slippery near the end. Sliding down through the greasy canyon walls is easy enough on the way in, but getting back up to the security of the safety line on the return trip is a very different story. By that time, after caving all weekend, and with energy ebbing towards the warning light, maneuvering self and muddy pack back up into the far end of Justice Canyon is the hardest part of any Kimble trip, at least for those of us (Oh!, That would just be me, wouldn't it.) in the senior citizen demographic.

Continuing from Justice Canyon, a short muddy section leads to an up rope of about twenty five feet with a rebelay. At the top of this the muddy conditions continue through some switch backs to a short climbdown. Just beyond this are twin pits totaling about fifty feet which lands you near the water source for camp 1, just a short bit further ahead.

On my fifth trip with Corey, John, Adam, Aaron, and Gilly there was only camp 1. On this trip Corey took me on a quick tour to the bottom of Kimble at -428'. Kimble is the fifth cave in Germany Valley to exceed the 400 foot depth figure. Corey also showed me a passage not far from camp which I would say is possibly the prettiest to be found anywhere in the valley (maybe the entire state). It is of walking dimension and profusely adorned floor to ceiling with gypsum snow, gypsum flowers, anthodite clusters shaming anything in Skyline, and helectites of an abundance, delicacy, and translucency to rival even the prettiest caves in the Guads. The passage continues for

several hundred feet. I dubbed it Reincarnation Corridor.



Delicate helectite erratics in Reincarnation Corridor near camp 1 in Kimble Pit (CMosley)

Also on this trip Aaron rigged a couple of pits and Gilly did a dicey climb at the limits of exploration to reveal major boreholes leading off in several directions. The abundance of such enticing booty purported the establishment of camp 2.

The jaunt from camp1 to camp 2 is considerably friendlier than getting from the entrance to camp1, with nothing even remotely comparable to the rigors of Justice Canyon. There is also only one roped drop (which is actually a climb on the way in). Much of the route is a series of crawls interspersed with some easy strolls. As you approach the aforementioned 59' pit (climb) the crawls get lower and there are a couple of short squeezes. The last low crawl is a bit gnarly and pops out at the base of the pit which is called the Brainstem due to the myriad of passages radiating out from it. Originally (on my fifth and sixth trips)

this was a 43 foot rope climb which took you into a complex boneyard trending generally upwards.



Brainstem Dome (Nikki Fox)



Anthodite bushes in Reincarnation Corridor near camp 1 in Kimble (Cassandra Mosley)

On my sixth trip Aaron rigged this pit from a larger passage higher up, eliminating the boneyard and providing a more direct route to and from camp2. The pit does have a rather awkward hanging rebelay near the top though. I'll take just a

moment to discuss camp packs. They tend to be rather stuffed from the get go, and just never seem to get any lighter as the trip progresses. Mine was dragging me down considerably as I made my slow ascent up the 59 footer while Elliot and Mark waited patiently below. Camp2 is not very far from the top of the pit, and there is only one more short obstacle to deal with; a traverse around a tricky climb which Aaron had also installed on my last (sixth) trip. Once past this, an easy up-trending passage pops out into a large room filled with massive breakdown. A climb up over this and then a left turn deposited Mark, Elliot, and I at camp 2 after about five hours of steady caving.

The other teams were still out so the three of us leisurely set out to establish our sleeping quarters and enjoyed some down time. I already had sleeping bag and pad in camp 2 from my previous trip, though I did bring in an extra pad this time just to make things a bit more comfortable. Soon John, Chris, and Nikki showed up, while Adam and Cassandra rolled in about an hour later. They had accessed a high lead which would be one of our surveys for the next day. John and Adam discussed various other objectives and eventually a tentative agenda for Saturday emerged. Sometime during the wee hours of the AM everyone drifted off to sleep. Around 10AM we crawled out of our bags, ate breakfast, divided into three teams, and off we went for the day's adventures.

Some up and down slopes, rappel two drops rigged by Aaron on an earlier trip, up two additional ropes, one of which had a troublesome rebelay, some nice strolling down decorated passages, and within about an hour from camp 2 Cassandra, Elliot, and I were ready to begin surveying Adam's lead from the night before. A taut redirect and copious loose rocks made the climb up into the lead much scarier than it appeared from below. The passage proved to be disappointing. We only got about a hundred feet of survey consisting of alternating hands and knees, belly crawl, and two stand-up cupolas before it shut down in fill with no air.

Next we rejoined Adam and John who took us to a gaping void which they had christened the Sala Grande de Sierra Rednecka. It was a very impressive room sloping both upwards and downwards into blackness. From the Sala Grande, John gave us some pointers to a series of superbly

decorated boreholes which we toured amid many oohs!!! and aahs!!! for the next hour. After this we followed John and Adam up two more roped drops to another of their leads. Unfortunately Adam soon verified that this quickly connected back into known territory, so we tied in the survey and went on tour again.

This time John suggested that we go across a traverse line rigged around a pit at the bottom of the second up rope in this section. He hinted that we would be pleasantly surprised. Well, I had already been witness to quite a few "pleasant surprises" on this trip, so my anticipation factor was pretty stoked.

A small sample of the pretties which adorn so many of the passages beyond camp2 in Kimble (Cassandra Mosley)



The passage which soon revealed itself did not disappoint. Delicate straws and helectites crowded the ceiling. Crystalline pools of yellowish-white dogtooth-like aragonite clusters lined every depression in the floor. All of this flanked a large cluster of pure white columns, totem stalagmites, and draperies.

The entire vista produced a sensory overload, and the cave was not finished. Past this display of subterranean splendor was a second room, little diminished from the previous in wonders. The usual (at least for Kimble) array of incredible beauties lined a shallow pit with striated caramel flowstone cascading into it all the way around. The ceiling remained festooned with a fairyland of exquisite transparent straws. No space seemed to be lacking in something worthy of our

appreciation. I suppose the pristine atmosphere, plus the fact that not even a dozen cavers have ever set foot in these rooms, just enhanced what seemed a surreal experience.



Myriad crystals line a dry pool in a room near the end of one of the Kimble boreholes beyond (Cassandra Mosley)



Backlit bacon draperies in another pretty Kimble passage (Cassandra Mosley)

We returned to the Sala Grande where we climbed another fixed rope to a short walking passage ending in a large pit flanked by slab breakdown. Adam checked down the pit first but subsequently determined that the safest means of passing this barrier would be an aide traverse along

the right wall near ceiling level. In a surprisingly short amount of time he had completed the traverse by setting half a dozen bolts on a belay line manned by John. John then strung a permanent line for the rest of us. Before starting across, we tied in the survey by shooting over the pit, recording a distance of over 85 feet. I was impressed by the fact that Adam had successfully completed such a long traverse in the space of barely an hour. On the far side of the pit excited whoops from Adam and John soon confirmed that just beyond a short stoopway the cave opened up into nice borehole. Cassandra, Elliot, and I cautiously edged our way out along Adam's traverse, and the booty scoop survey was on.

The virgin borehole had us all pumping adrenalin. In cross section it measured over 20X20. In typical Kimble fashion it was also very well decorated. Visions of thousands of feet of booty were soon dashed, however, as the passage shut down after just a few hundred feet in each direction.



Exploring and surveying virgin borehole in Kimble (Cassandra Mosley)

Adam reported that there was a blowing lead in precarious breakdown high on the right wall. Directional stalactites hinted at the promise of more cave if the breakdown could be passed. At the other end of the short borehole John was intrigued by a dome pit which seemed to be about thirty feet deep. The dome also extended upward, but we couldn't

approach it for a good look see due to very loose rocks around the lip. The far wall of the pit was encased in a beautiful tri-colored flowstone for as far as we could see up or down. While the borehole was somewhat disappointing in its entirety, the two good leads it generated would certainly warrant a return trip.

On our return trip to camp 2 John recommended we take a different route following yet another spectacularly decorated borehole. This route also had the advantage of bypassing the double pit with the awkward rebelay. It wasn't all borehole, but the crawly sections were so packed with straws and helectites that, as Elliot remarked, they were the most pleasant crawls any caver could ever ask for. The dominant formations in the borehole sections were the dozens of perfectly symmetrical broomsticks perched like sentinels all along the high ledges. In the end, just another gorgeous Kimble passage. Kimble beyond camp 2 reminded me of my caving experiences in the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico, where the senses are constantly bombarded with so much awesome, that after a while the incredible just becomes the mundane. It almost becomes just too much to assimilate.



Just another pretty display of speleothems beyond camp2 in Kimble (Cassandra Mosley)

The five of us arrived back at camp 2 around 11PM. and soon set about replenishing our depleted

calorie deficits. Nikki, Chris, and Mark returned to camp around 1AM Sunday from their survey. Total booty surveyed by all teams was about 1100 feet with a couple of new interesting leads. All in all, a productive trip.

Knowing that it would take me much longer to exit than it would all the young folks, I had a short rest in my bag and departed from camp2 around 3:30 Sunday morning. I did well until, as expected, I encountered Justice Canyon. Getting back up to the traverse line was every bit as exhausting as I thought it would be. By the time I finally succeeded in clipping in, I was experiencing an energy drain. Okay, let's be honest, I was hammered. To make things worse, my pack had by now gained many pounds from encrusted sticky clay. Where's the fairness of a pack getting heavier as I get weaker. My pace slackened noticeably as I slogged on towards the entrance. It was nearly 11AM Sunday when I gratefully poked my head out of the top of the 169' entrance pit into sunlight. My exit time was about 7 hours, and it had been 42 hours since Mark, Elliot, and I had entered on Friday evening. Kimble is always a difficult cave for me, but each time I take away countless images of a truly memorable trip.

Many thanks to John's parents, John Sr. and Honey for making Kimble accessible to us. Gratitude to John Harman and Adam Byrd for the invitation to share with them in this remarkable journey. And finally, much appreciation to Cassandra Mosley for graciously offering her excellent photos for use in this article.

Terry McClanathan NSS 12103

TSG Meeting 11/9/16

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 13 people in attendance.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

John talked about the WVCC banquet and the sinkhole cleanup for this coming weekend (11/12/16) in Lewisburg. Cost of the dumpster is \$165 + \$2 per tire. Be at Walmart in Lewisburg at 10:00 am.

Tom talked about getting grants for helping with the cost of projects like cleanups, gatings, etc.

Bob talked about the Christmas party 12/3/16 stating at 6:00 pm at the Bedington Ruritan.

Vertical practice at James Rumsey on Wed, Nov 16th starting from 6-9 pm. Bring your own gear if you have any.

Trips: Doc went to Hamilton Cave. They then stuck their heads into New Trout before leaving.

Tom & Bob took scouts to Jones Quarry. All of the scouts went to Hogbins Addition. Cave was very dry.

Don Arrowood is leading a trip to Baker Cavern in PA on Dec 7th. Has a limit of 20 people. Meet at Sunnyway grocery store at 6:60 pm.

Held nominations for officers:

Secretary: Paulette

Treasurer: Jerry

V-Chair: Bob

Chair: John

UUMM! Sounds like a RR job to me!

Cave Bucks: \$23.00 – Sent to SCCI.

Tom again talked about donating money for projects.

Doc talked about a cleanup in Dam #4 & Indian River caves.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett, Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

TSG Meeting

10/12/16

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. 19 people in attendance.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

Old Business: Bob talked about the poles for the canopy. The approximate price to replace them would be about \$320. Bob will bring some of the poles to the meeting to discuss whether they can be painted, etc.

Fall VAR's attendance was about 95 people.

Tom talked about a pit and a possible pit on a farm in Greenbrier Co.

Where to have the Christmas party is undecided as of right now.

There was an impromptu Adam Stephen dig. Dave came and micro-blasted a large rock. The actually Adam Stephen dig will be Sat, Oct 15th at 9:30 am. Keith will provide lunch.

Eric talked about vertical practice at James Rumsey Wed, Oct 19th at 6:00 pm.

New Business: Spring VAR at Thorn Spring Camp Ground Apr 28, 29, & 30.

John talked about a group contacting him about going into Donaldson Cave.

John Hopkins talked to Jerry about going to Jones Quarry Cave.

There was talk about non-profit status for TSG.

Trips: Doc wants a carbide trip to Jones Quarry.

It was decided to give the owners of Jones Quarry Cave an award for their continued friendship with cavers.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

John then was auctioneer for the Annual Grotto Auction. The auction was a great success. The total income from the auction was \$174.50. Way to go people!

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett, Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Carpenter-Swago Survey Trip

On December 10th 2016 I was able to get on to the re-survey team for Carpenter-Swago. I had spent the previous night at WVACS, like many others that were on the survey. That night had been very cold and we all knew the cold was going to carry over into the next day. Eventually, my group of three: Myself, Adam Byrd, and Kristen Anderson woke up and found our way to Carpenter-Swago. We parked along the road, and managed to get all of our gear on in the 20 degree weather.

It was a five minute walk to the Carpenter Entrance, which was the only entrance we were going to deal with. My group was the last group into the cave. I was never told the official height of the Carpenter entrance drop, but my estimate would be around 100 feet, and no more than 120. At the bottom of the drop there is a waterfall, which I can guarantee you was extremely cold. After the first drop there is a small 15 foot drop that places you

down into some passage. That drop is directly under the waterfall, so you get wet, no matter how fast you move.

The last vertical part of the trip was a nice 50 foot drop which placed us in the Carpenter trunk passage. When it came to survey assignments, my group lucked out. We were to tie-in to the A-survey which was a survey of the Carpenter trunk passage. It was a nice open survey for us. Our tie in point was A-36. From there we did a PUD shot and started the GFY survey. The passage we went down had some nice flowstone and formations throughout all of it. We surveyed around 130-180 feet. At this time it was getting a little late, and everyone was exiting the cave, because the WVACS Christmas party was about to start. We started the quick trip back, which included a lot of down-climbing. In a short amount of time we made it back to the climbs out.

Adam was the first out, followed by Kristen. While Kristen was on rope she had accidentally dislodged a large rock, which was a linchpin for several hundred pounds of dirt and rocks. She immediately called out ROCK! and I was able to quickly get out of the fall zone. Both Kristen and I were okay, minus being a little shaken. Kristen was getting exceedingly wet, but safely made it out of the cave. Adam came back down to check on the situation and we left a note at the sign-out sheet, so exiting cavers would know to be wary. I climbed the nuisance drop and then speed ascended the entrance drop. I exited the cave to a rapidly approaching dusk, and hustled my way down to the cars.

However, on my way down I noticed on the side of the road a small hole that was blowing hot air. It was so close to the road it must be known about, but it would be worth a more detailed look when it is warmer. I made it to the car, followed by Adam and we quickly changed into warm and dry clothes. From there we headed back to WVACS for the Christmas Party, which had an impressive abundance of good food.

Shawn Hogbin
Keep Kaving



(John DiCarlo)



Santa cutting country ham (Ann Muldoon)



(Ann Muldoon)



CAVEN CALENDAR

DECEMBER 11TH - JANUARY 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Dec 11</i>	<i>Dec 12</i>	<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>Dec 14</i>  Meeting 7pm Elections	<i>Dec 15</i>	<i>Dec 16</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>
<i>Dec 18</i>	<i>Dec 19</i>	<i>Dec 20</i>	<i>Dec 21</i>  SOLSTICE	<i>Dec 22</i>	<i>Dec 23</i>	<i>Dec 24</i>  CHRISTMAS EVE
<i>Dec 25</i>  CHRISTMAS DAY	<i>Dec 26</i>	<i>Dec 27</i>	<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>Dec 29</i>	<i>Dec 30</i>	<i>Dec 31</i>  NEW YEAR'S EVE
<i>Jan 1</i> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<i>Jan 2</i>	<i>Jan 3</i>	<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>Jan 5</i>	<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>Jan 7</i>
<i>Jan 8</i>	<i>Jan 9</i>	<i>Jan 10</i>	<i>Jan 11</i>  Meeting 7pm	<i>Jan 12</i>	<i>Jan 13</i>	<i>Jan 14</i>
<i>Jan 15</i>	<i>Jan 16</i> KING DAY	<i>Jan 17</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>Jan 19</i>	<i>Jan 20</i>	<i>Jan 21</i>

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Todd climbing out of (?) Indian Pit, Netherfield Farm, Greenbrier Co, W
Photo by JohnDiCarlo



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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