

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



GYPSUM FLOWERS IN CAVE MT CAVE

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*** The cover photo this month was taken by Bob Bennett in Cave Mt Cave, Pendleton 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

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!



CAVE EVENTS

2016

***** 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 January ----- **\$24.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$6104.50**

**The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!**

WEBSITE & GIVING 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

FEB 2 ---- -Ground Hog Day
FEB 7 ---- Super Bowl
FEB 9 ---- Fat Tuesday
FEB 10 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm
FEB 13 --- Jones Quarry - Brent Jefferson
FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 15 --- President's Day
FEB 20 --- Jones Quarry/Donaldson - Cleveland Grotto - see Tom G
FEB 21 --- Whittings Neck/Indian River - Cleveland Grotto - see Tom G
MAR 9 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
MAR 12 --- Adam Stephen Dig - 9:30am
MAR 13 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 19 --- Baker Quarry Gate Repair (?)
MAR 20 --- VERNAL EQUINOX
MAR 25 --- MD Day
MAR 25 --- GOOD FRIDAY
MAR 27 --- EASTER
APR 1 ---- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 2 ---- P, B, & J DAY
APR 15 --- TAX DAY
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY
APR 22-24 --- Spring VAR - Endless Caverns
APR 29 --- ARBOR DAY
MAY 5 --- CINCO de MAYO
MAY 7 --- WVASS meeting - Unus, WV
MAY 8 --- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 11 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
MAY 13-15 --- Spring MAR - Shade Gap, PA
MAY 14 --- Adam Stephen Day - 9am
MAY 16 --- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 27-30 --- Speleofest - Lone Star Preserve, KY
MAY 30 --- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 2-5 ---- SERA Cave Carnival - Pigeon Mt, GA
JUN 8 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
JUN 10-12 --- Bubble Weekend
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY
JUN 19 --- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 13 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention - Ely, NV
AUG 10 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
SEP 1-5 --- OTR
SEP 3 ---- Doo Dah Parade - 10am
SEP 5 ---- MEMORIAL DAY
SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY
SEP 14 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
SEP 23 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX
OCT 12 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
OCT 15 --- Bridge Day

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Daniel Amundson, Erek Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Barry Duncan, Terri Griffin, Russell Linton, Carrie Marcum, Tyler Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

Return to Memorial Day Cave
by
Terry McClanathan

Earlier this fall I took a short trip into Memorial Day Cave(Pendleton County, W. Va.) to remove my 200' tape for use elsewhere. Rick Royer and Scott Wahlquist accompanied me as far as the rope leading up to FLAD where I'd stashed my tape, which was last used to measure several deep pits in that area of the cave. I'd noticed from reading recent trip reports by Rick that survey personnel in Memorial Day Cave(MDC) seemed to have dropped off significantly within the past couple of years. In fact, even I had removed my personal camping gear from the cave around that time and hadn't been back as far as camp since. Rick informed me that if I were interested in joining them for a trip I needn't worry about bringing in camping gear because there was an abundance of unused sleeping bags and pads already back there. I offered to accompany Rick and Scott on the next(Dec.) GVKS work weekend.

Memorial Day is currently one of the largest caves in the state. However, unlike other mega giants such as Friars Hole, Hellhole, Organ System, Scott Hollow, and Culverson Creek, MDC is a relative newbie. The exploration and mapping of its immensity has all been accomplished within the last

decade and a half. In that comparatively short span, huge rooms, extensive boreholes, deep pits and high domes, lakes, and beautiful speleothem displays have been revealed within its twenty five plus miles of passages. Memorial Day is officially a GVKS project cave. Rick keeps a meticulous record of survey activity within MDC and sent me a summary sheet listing everyone involved. The total list of cavers numbers 86 (only those who survey are included), but over half of this total have been on just one or two trips. The top twenty participants have contributed a total of over 5,000 feet of survey each(I'm way down at #18 on that list), with Rick, Scott, and Peter Penzer leading the way having amassed impressive figures of nearly 86,000', 51,000 +', and 42,000' respectively.

I guess FLAD was the last significant breakout, resulting in many thousands of feet of virgin booty, but this was a few years back. Systematic lead checking spearheaded by Rick and Scott still produces multi-hundreds of feet of new survey each trip. MDC is gated and only open to caving on the second weekend of each month(this is the designated GVKS work weekend), but sport caving is not encouraged. Most GVKS cavers do not participate in MDC surveys. This December(11th-13th) saw five of us entering the cave. Rick, Scott, and Pete started in around 6AM on Friday(11th), while Edgard Bertaut was gracious enough to wait until I arrived later at around 8. Ricks records show that Edgard had been on 22 previous survey trips in MDC. This would be my 17th. We were climbing down the entrance ladder by 8:30.

While Memorial Day tends to be overshadowed by its big brother in Germany Valley, Hellhole, it is certainly a premier cave in its own right. It ranks as one of the longest caves in a state renowned for big caves. If all the decorated sections in MDC were compressed into just a mile long cave the experience would be stunning. Memorial Day is a challenging cave but the rewards for perseverance are great and varied. I find that my trips into the cave are both exhilarating and satisfying.

Trips into MDC can range from moderately difficult to totally exhausting depending on your destination and objectives. Near the entrance a couple of easy

down climbs and pop-throughs leads to several hundred feet of pleasant walking passage. The easy stroll ends at the first of three short but low crawls, the last of which has been dubbed Miles' Mousehole(Miles Drake), a shortcut which eliminates a big loop of tight nasty squeezes and contortions. After the "Mousehole" four climb downs dropping a total of about 80 vertical feet follow in quick succession. The first two have permanent handlines for attaching packs and facilitating the exit of tired cavers. At the bottom of the fourth climb the first pit is encountered. A traverse line leads out to the lip of a nice free 49 footer.

At the base of this pit within just a few feet the notorious "Puppet Buster" begins. This is a twisting narrow passage totaling only a bit over one hundred feet in length, but it is the first real obstacle encountered in Memorial Day. The first half of the "Puppet Buster" has been modified extensively to make it "friendlier". Even so, it's still basically a pain to traverse, with the worst parts being a short section near the midpoint and a thirty foot section near the end. In both cases progress can only be attained by worming yourself into the top of a small keyhole and inching forward without allowing either yourself or your gear to be swallowed by the crevice beckoning beneath you. Failure to achieve this would result in one very wedged caver or irretrievable pack. The "Puppet Buster" ends abruptly at the lip of the main drop into Columbia Canyon. This drop is interrupted by a hanging rebelay about 60 feet down, with a redirect

thirty feet lower, before a final landing 117 feet below the lip of the "buster".



Columbia Canyon on the way to Camp (Brian Masney)

Here the nature of the cave changes dramatically. Upslope in Columbia Canyon leads within a few hundred feet to up ropes accessing an extensive section of the cave discovered by Chris Coates and Nikki Fox several years back. The digging and bolting efforts of Chris and Nikki have not only added nearly two miles to the length of MDC, but have also resulted in the only other entrance(so far), a connection to Ruddle Cave. Don't be fooled though, entry through, or exit from the Ruddle entrance does not

alleviate many of the rigors of MDC.

It simply exchanges one set of obstacles for another. Downslope from the landing point at the 117' drop marks the beginning of the trek towards camp. This involves over 3000 feet of traverse in a large canyon interspersed with numerous breakdown "hills". You cannot simply stroll down Columbia Canyon to camp. In fact there are very few flat sections found within this spacious borehole. The first delay is a 14 foot up rope which bypasses a tight upward squeeze. About a thousand feet further and several "hills" later is a second up rope. You can pass this by unless your planning on visiting FLAD. The FLAD area was first accessed through short aide climbs by Pete Penzer and Scott Wahlquist which lead to a large upper borehole

complex culminating in a series deep pits and high domes. Aaron Moses assumed the lead here, setting up a jungle gym of traverse lines and bolting 108 feet up a high dome to reveal glistening galleries of Lechuguilla type scenery (one especially outstanding room is christened Fladuguilla), thousands of additional feet of cave, and a gaping pit. This pit, Trapdoor Well, at 221 feet deep, is the deepest "from the top" drop in the state. Most of my more recent trips in MDC have been to FLAD.

Back in Columbia Canyon a few more ups and downs brings you to the midpoint where an especially massive breakdown blockage halts your "easy" forward progress at a drop-off. Here a series of down climbs between car sized boulders brings you back to the bottom of the canyon, just in time to start threading your way up through the next jumble. This is accomplished by crawling through an uptrending awkward slot along the right wall. Did I forget to mention that the average breakdown "hill" rises about fifty vertical feet. That's an awful lot of huffing and puffing when toting a heavy pack. The younger folks may not think much of it, but I've been collecting social security for quite a while now, and the "hike" through Columbia Canyon tires me out. Being fresher and not having to climb the pits, it takes me about three hours to make it back to camp, however my return trip is normally double that.

Soon after the aforementioned obstructions are passed, a near vertical clay wall looms before you. A permanent handline(I rig in with a safety ascender here) takes you back up to the ceiling level. Things flatten out for a hundred feet or so before the next and longest descent back to the bottom of the canyon. Around the corner a rope drop leads down into the YY Survey. My first trip in MDC back in '04 was a 22 hour day trip surveying down in the YY with Massachusetts caver Kevin Flanagan. While not as extensive as FLAD, this is one of the lowest parts of MDC and is prone to flooding. Past the YY rope a couple more long ascents and a short, but sloppy crawl leads to a pre-camp water source. Empty water bottles are stashed here as folks exit the cave, then are filled and returned to camp on the ensuing entry trips. On this particular trip I guess Rick, Scott, and Pete

retrieved all the bottles because there were none left for us. Just as well...my pack was already stuffed. After the water source camp is finally close. At the top of the next short rise a rope snakes up the right wall. This leads to the Wendi Cassel Dome, a 201 foot high pit climbed by Dave Riggs and Carl Amundson a number of years ago. Aaron Moses did a traverse across the top to establish a rig allowing for a free rappel(without rebelay) down this fine shaft. A standing line is still there and would make a nice short side trip diversion from camp for the more vertically inclined. Past the rope leading up to the Wendi Cassel Dome, an easy down climb along the left wall of Columbia Canyon takes you to the base of the last rise before camp. Camp is centrally located within MDC and several major trunk passages are only a few minutes away. By the time we arrived, Rick, Scott, and Pete had already turned in for the night. Edgard and I were snug in our bags by midnight.

Despite the tendency to become confused by the concept of night and day in the total darkness of a cave camp, Rick likes to get an early start on the days project. His firing up of the camp stove is like a rooster crowing to announce that rest time is over. We were all up and preparing breakfast by 7AM. As we ate, Rick presented a "to do" list, and we discussed options. The basic plan was to knock off as many leads as possible in the far eastern part of the cave about a mile distant from camp. We divided into two teams. Scott, Pete, and I on one, Rick and Edgard forming the second. While I generally resist new ways of doing things, I must confess that technology occasionally even catches up to an old diehard like me. On a recent survey with Corey(Hackley) and Ryan Boyce I was finally convinced that the new disto-X fabricated by John Harman and Corey at John's company offered much greater ease of survey than using conventional instruments. I asked them to build one for me and I had just picked it up at John's home on my way down to Germany Valley Friday evening. Scott already had one, so I offered mine to Rick and Edgard. However, I neglected to check the units at John's house the night before so I didn't realize the disto was set to read the distance in meters instead of feet. None of us could determine how to make it register feet, but it still proved useful for recording

azimuths and inclination. Corey later told me the procedure for conversion and it was very simple.

I'd been on several surveys out from camp to the various far reaches of MDC before, so I thought that our travel route today should be one of the easier trips. I find many of the passages beyond camp to be less arduous than those

on the way to camp. Today our route began as a crawl to a post-camp water source, then a second crawl to a nice passage called the Gypsum Sand Borehole. This is mostly easy walking(very different from Columbia Canyon), broken by two roped traverses around pits occupying

most of the floor. The Gypsum Sand Borehole is also well decorated in certain sections with clusters of columns, straws, helectites, and abundant gypsum deposits.

The borehole eventually deteriorates into a smaller canyon where you scramble over shattered breakdown skirting shallow pits along the way. This leads into the Popcorn Crawl, an aptly named

passage about five hundred feet long. Good knee pads are a must here. While no one part of the crawl could be described as grim, in its entirety it's a major obstacle to travel to the eastern regions of MDC.

After the

Popcorn Crawl there is a technical section consisting of multiple rigged traverses and two up and down pits of 35 feet each. In another thousand feet we'd reached the point where our teams would split, each heading off to their respective leads. Rick and Edgard

planned to continue through the main passage towards the

Flying Dutchman Dome(303' high), checking and surveying leads along the way.



The Gypsum Sand Borehole beyond camp (Brian Masney)



Nice formation cluster just past camp in the Gypsum Sand Borehole (Brian Masney)

Scott, Pete, and I headed into a complex area called the Hairball, so named because its profusion of intricate overlapping passages made it resemble a gigantic hairball on the map. The quickest way to the large borehole above the Hairball was to follow a twisting route up through small passages interspersed with breakdown marked by flagging as the Black Diamond Bypass. It

seemed to me that I'd been up to this borehole by a different route once before, but Scott said using the Black Diamond Bypass would cut off about a thousand feet of traverse. After a couple hundred feet in the "Diamond" short cut we popped out into what was indeed an impressive breakdown floored borehole. Scott pointed out one of our leads, an as yet to be scaled vertical wall with an enticing recess about twenty feet above the floor. We would save this for later.

On to our primary objective, an unplumbed pit found by Rick and Scott on their last trip. Back in the breakdown borehole we proceeded a few hundred feet further to a split in the passage. Right led down and passed by another water source in a formation laden grotto full of bizarre right angle helectites which zigged and zagged their way down from the ceiling. These were really quite unique. Once we'd topped off our water containers we climbed back up to the left fork in the borehole, and after a couple more hundred feet began working our way down a breakdown slope along the left wall.

After one hairy climb down a very unstable wall, followed by a few contortions, we found ourselves at the lip of a fairly large pit. Rick and Scott left this rigged from their last trip and we soon rappelled to

a landing about fifty feet down. The main pit continued lower and I later descended to the bottom and disto-ed the entire pit at 78 feet. To reach the undone pit, from the landing we had to

climb up over steep

breakdown using a handline left by Rick and Scott earlier. Once at the top our virgin pit was just a short way further. Scott soon had a couple bolts drilled into the wall for rigging, as Pete and I uncoiled a rope and prepared to start the survey. This survey turned out to be very brief. Pete descended first and verified that the pit was dead bottom. The only possible lead was at a partition about halfway down. This also proved to be a no go. We surveyed the pit to a depth of 48 feet.

There were no other leads in this area so we prepared to derig everything and move on to our second objective...Scotts bolt climb which we'd passed by earlier. I had some extra room in my pack, having discarded some of the bulk back at camp, so I stuffed our rigging rope in the bottom and started working my way to the top of the 78 footer. A lot of rope and webbing had been used to rig this, so when Pete got to the top with another of our ropes, I took this also, figuring he and Scott would already have enough to manage, and began retracing our steps. They finished derigging the 78



Borehole trunk above and beyond the Hairball (Brian Masney)

foot pit and soon caught up to me. Within a short time we re-deposited all our gear near the base of the climbing lead.

While Scott prepared for the bolt climb, Pete and I put on some warmer cloths and had a bite to eat. The rock was terrible and Scott had a difficult time selecting spots for good bolt placement. Even the best he could find were dubious. Once off the floor, Pete picked him up on belay. Despite the absence of any really good rock, all Scott's anchors held and after only five bolts he had gained the lead. It went, so he used the last of the battery power to set two rigging bolts.

Pete and I found our tie-in station and the survey was on. Scott's bolt climb measured 21 feet. By now he'd rappelled back down to retrieve his survey book. Pete went back up first to set stations, I followed doing foresights with Scott's disto-X. Pete read the backlights with compass and clinometer. Scott came up last recording our data and sketching. Surprisingly the disto-x and Pete's conventional instruments seemed to be pretty much in sync. The passage was sinuous and most of our shots were only averaging about ten feet. The walls were crumbly but not too bad for chimneying, and there was no mud. Unfortunately within just half a dozen shots Pete came to a pit too wide for straddling. There was no way for us to reach the other side, and while we had rope to descend the pit, there were no natural rig points and the battery for the drill had been drained. The canyon appeared to widen near the bottom, so thinking that it might be more passable further down, we made tentative plans to drop the pit on the next trip and resume the survey at a lower level.

It took the three of us about two and a half hours to return to camp. After a nice warm meal we were back in our bags by 11PM. Rick and Edgard arrived about an hour later. I woke around 3AM, packed up, and began my slow exit. I like to get a good head start so I don't hold anyone else up, and I usually make it back to the entrance at a leisurely pace before anybody catches up to me. I was out by 9 Sunday morning. My exit hadn't taken any longer than the last time I was at camp nearly three years ago, and I was not completely exhausted. I'll

take this as a good sign that I'm still capable of doing camp trips in Memorial Day Cave, though I will admit that the light streaming down into the entrance was a welcome sight.

Wednesday Night Caving

Special Thursday Night Edition

Molers Cave

By John DiCarlo NSS # 25744

Molers Crossroads, WV – A group of geologists from all over the county were meeting in Baltimore, Maryland and had arranged a trip into Molers Cave. We were asked to guide them through the cave.

I met Bob Bennett at McDonalds for dinner. Afterwards we headed to the owners house. We arrived and drove Professor Richard Latterell to the cave opening. He unlocked the gate for us. We drove him back to where we met up with the rest of our group. Regrouping there, we loaded up Bob Bennett's and Tom Griffin's pickup trucks and headed to Molers Cave.



Bob Bennett waits for his turn to climb through the gate

Everyone was ready so we started going through the gate. Making our way down the passage we noticed there was a lot of scat everywhere. They had grown a white fungus on them. It made them look hairy. Someone said that it was all recent as they had been in the cave a month or so ago and there was no scat anywhere. I'm guessing with the colder weather that something is taking shelter in the cave. We saw scat everywhere in the cave.



**Fungus on scat, it
looks like a lantern**

We saw a Tri-colored Bat and I had to get a picture of it. It had water droplets on it that made it look white. We did see a few bats flying around.



**A Tri-colored Bat with water
droplets on it's fur**

As we continued, we climbed up clay banks and down them, over rocks and a deep pit. We came to a hole that we had to climb down. This was a hole with a deep slope at the bottom of it. We climbed down one at a time spotting for the person behind us. We were now down on the lower level.



**One of the geologists
coming down a slope**

We saw a lot of pendants in the lower level. There was row after row of them.



**A lot of the ceiling in the lower
levels had pendants like this**

There were narrow canyons and hands and knees crawling here. We passed the drip-drip waterfall with a mud pool under it. Moving on we got to the formation room. This was the best-decorated room in the cave.



The Formation Room

After looking around and taking lots of pictures we moved on.



**Tom Griffin Talking to
the group of Geologists**

We climbed a steep clay bank and ended up in the loft. This was our turn-around point. We moved down back down the clay bank so others could get up.



**Here we had
to climb up
a slope to
the loft.**

We headed back out. Going up a slope, we thought we were doing fine until we hit a dead end. We had to back up a little and stay in the stream passage, which we had to hands and knees crawl. We found our way along and had to climb up a steep slope to climb out of the hole to the upper level.



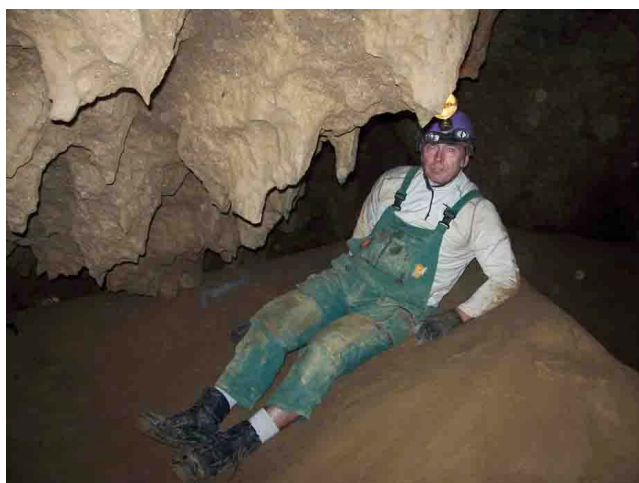
**Some of the geologists
climbing up a slope**

Moving back up the passage we crossed the pit again. It was easier crossing going back out. We climbed down another clay bank and followed the passage to the gate.



Two of the Geologists look at pendants

Climbing through the gate, our group flopped down on any ground they could find. I counted heads to make sure we had everybody. We didn't want to leave anyone inside. Closing the gate, we walked back to the pickup trucks and drove back across the fields to the parking area.



Tom Griffin and some pendants

After everyone jumped out, Bob Bennett and I went back to the owner's house to tell him we were out and to thank him for the trip.

To see more pictures go to Tri-State Grotto's Facebook page and look for the Molers Cave trip on November 7, 2015.

Wednesday Night Caving Indian (River) Cave The Indian in Indian Cave



By John DiCarlo NSS # 25744

Whitings Neck, WV – Wednesday Night found Tri-State Grotto meeting in the parking lot of the Bedington X-Roads Store. We drove to where we were parking and suited up. It was November 4, 2015.

We started our long walk to the cave. Adam Oates had gotten a new light and we told him he had to keep it on the red setting, so he wouldn't blind us.

As we walked down the path Adam kept up with the person in front of him. I was behind him and got quickly left behind. Bob Bennett was behind me and a few people were behind him. We talked about the younger people way ahead of us older guys. When we would crest a hill, we could see Adam's red light on top of the next hill. That's how I kept track of him. Another hill and we looked, and could see his red light. We kept doing that until we got to the cliffs.



Tim Jordan (Left) and Doc Phillips making their way down the cliff

Tom Griffin ran a rope along the path down to use as a handrail. It worked out good. I think I've seen the rope somewhere before.



Bob Edmonds at the upper entrance to Indian Cave

We made our way down to the upper entrance. One by one we entered. Looking around I saw what I thought looked like nostrils from the inside of a head.



The Nostrils

Squeezing through the passage to the next room, I popped out and saw a bat on the wall. I asked if anyone else had seen it. Apparently not, as several people came back for a look and some took pictures.



Don't leave me hanging, give me a high five

Next we came to a big room. Off of it higher up, was a small room that we were calling the bedroom.



Adam Oates in the Bedroom

Next we had a passage with a very tall ceiling. It could easily be over 30 feet. We came to a tight crawl that we went through that lead to a small room with an even smaller passage off it. This is where we turned around and started our way back out.



The Indian in Indian Cave

I was taking pictures of Adam and continuing up above him, and then a third shot to show how tall the room was. Later as I looked through my pictures I found the Indian of Indian Cave. If you cave there, be sure to visit The Spirit of the Cave.



John DiCarlo coming out of a hole
in the back of Indian Cave
Photo by Mike Ward

We regrouped in one of the rooms and I was able to get a picture of the group, or most of them.



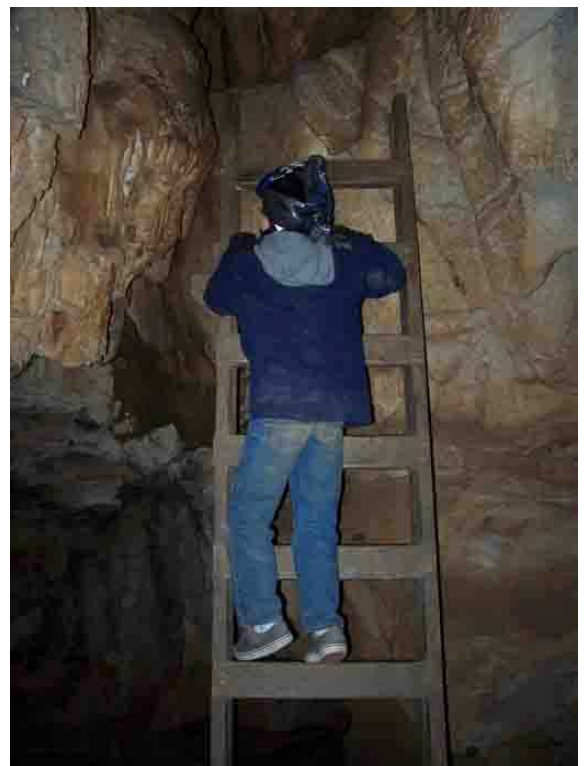
A group shot in Indian Cave

As we came to the beginning of the cave we exited the lower entrance. We made our way up to the upper entrance, then up the cliff.



Looking out the lower entrance
of Indian Cave. Photo by Mike Ward

As we walked back to the cars, we came to Whittings Neck Cave. Several of us went into it. Adam and I had only planned on doing the entrance room.



Adam Oates climbs
the ladder in
Whittings Neck Cave



**Adam Oates at the
top of the passage**

Others wanted to go farther in, so we continued on. We made our way down the passage checking out a side room or two. Eventually we came to the drop. This is where we turned around and headed back out.



**Great Flowstone in
Whitings Neck Cave**

Back at the parking area we caught up with the rest of our group. We stood around talking and decided to go to Donaldson Cave for the next Wednesday Night Caving trip.

To see more pictures go to Tri-State Grotto's Facebook page and look for the Indian Cave trip on November 6, 2015.

TSG meeting January 16, 2016

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.
No Grotto correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS: John gave a report on the menu for the Spring VAR 2016.

Tom talked about the T-shirts for VAR. They will be kelly Green. We talked about sending a VAR shirt to be judged for the 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, NV.

Terry donated a rope for Endless to use on trips to the wild section. He gave it to Jerry to take to Endless.

Bob has the signs to use for VAR directions.

We will have an Adam Stephen dig on Sat, Mar 12th starting at 9:30 am until 4:00 pm.

Adam Stephen day / Heritage Day will be held on Sat, May 14th starting at 9:00 am.

Tom talked about repairing the gate (again) on Baker Quarry. He also suggested that we do a cleanup inside the quarry.

NEW BUSINESS: Jerry talked about purchasing a Breathing Cave Monograph for himself and also having the Grotto purchase one for the Grotto Library.

TRIPS: We talked about continuing the Wed evening caving. it seems to be a hit!

WHO HAS BEEN CAVING: Bob talked about Bean Cave in Frederick Co, VA. The cave was gated & cleaned up. Several Grotto members helped out with the project: Tom Griffin, Ann Muldoon, Bob Denton, Jerry Bowen, Bob Edmonds, Bob Bennett
Terry talked about getting info on Nutt Cave.

CAVE BUCKS: We collected \$24.00. It will be sent to SCCI.

ELECTIONS: At the Dec meeting we held elections for officers. The results were:

Chair - John DiCarlo

V-Chair - Bob Bennett

Secretary - TIE! - Paulette Bennett & Tom Griffin

Treasurer - Jerry Bowen

To break the tie we held a re-election for the position of Secretary at the January meeting. In the re-elections Paulette was re-elected Secretary for another year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Bennett

Secretary, Tri-State Grotto of the NSS



Fox Skull Cave



Fox Skull Cave



Dam #5 Caves



Inside Fox Skull (TomG)



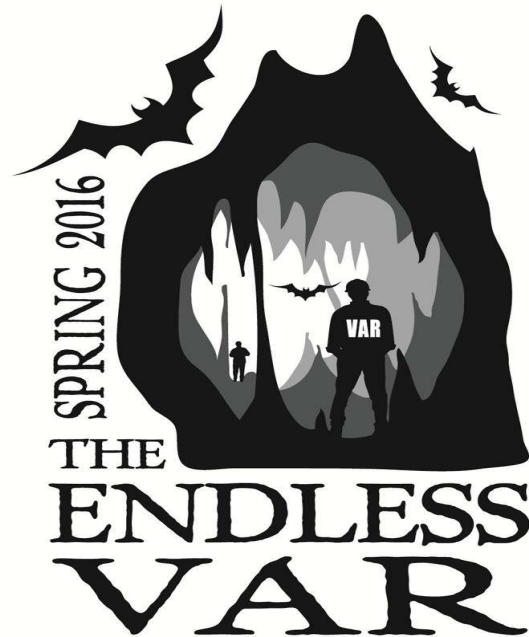
CAVIN CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 7TH - MARCH 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb 7</i>	<i>Feb 8</i>	<i>Feb 9</i> FAT TUESDAY	<i>Feb 10</i>  Meeting 7pm	<i>Feb 11</i>	<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>Feb 13</i> Jones Quarry - Brent Jefferson
<i>Feb 14</i>  VALENTINE'S DAY	<i>Feb 15</i> PRESIDENT'S DAY	<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>Feb 18</i>	<i>Feb 19</i>	<i>Feb 20</i> Jones Quarry & Donaldson - Cleveland Grotto - see Tom G
<i>Feb 21</i> Whittings Neck & Indian River - Cleveland Grotto - see Tom G	<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>Feb 27</i>
<i>Feb 28</i>	<i>Feb 29</i>	<i>Mar 1</i>	<i>Mar 2</i>	<i>Mar 3</i>	<i>Mar 4</i>	<i>Mar 5</i>
<i>Mar 6</i>	<i>Mar 7</i>	<i>Mar 8</i>	<i>Mar 9</i>  Meeting 7pm	<i>Mar 10</i>	<i>Mar 11</i>	<i>Mar 12</i> Adam Stephen dig - 930 am
<i>Mar 13</i> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	<i>Mar 14</i>	<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>Mar 16</i>	<i>Mar 17</i>  ST PATRICK'S DAY	<i>Mar 18</i>	<i>Mar 19</i> Baker Quarry gate repair?

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



(By Laura Oates)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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