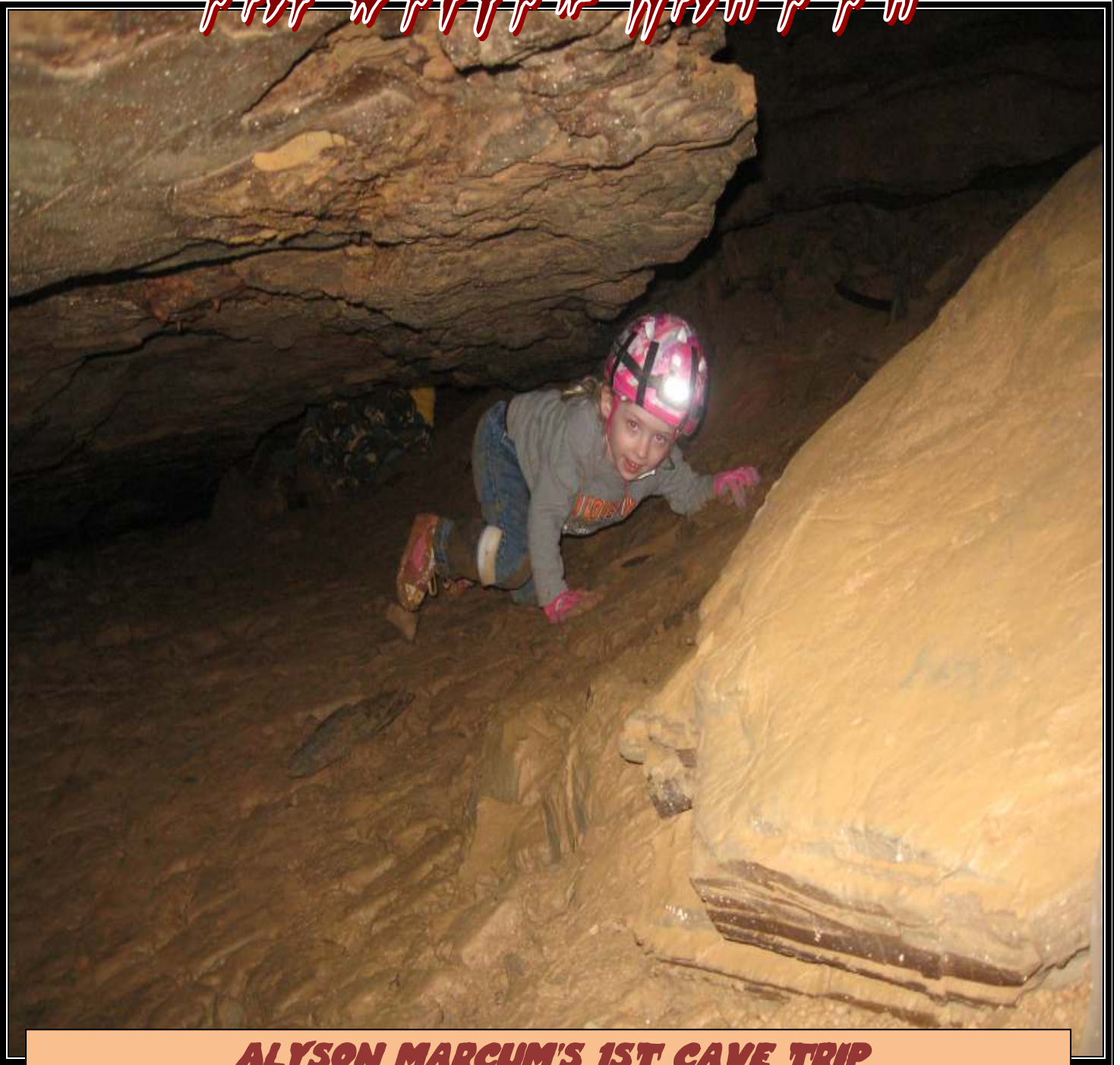


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**ALYSON MARCUM'S 1ST CAVE TRIP  
DONALDSON CAVE**

**VOL. #31**

**ISS. #1**

**JAN**

**2016**

**#1**



(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)  
(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
or can be SENT TO:

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

E-MAIL: [bookmaker-jb@myactv.net](mailto:bookmaker-jb@myactv.net)

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

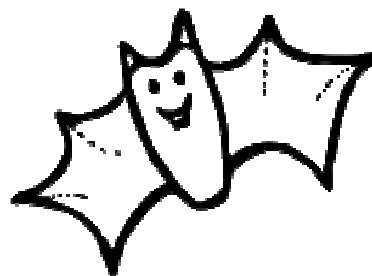
BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS  
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.  
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211  
304-821-4621

E-MAIL: [gimpycaver@comcast.net](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)

\*\*\* The cover photo this month was taken by Mike Ward. It shows Alyson Marcum on her 1st cave trip in Donaldson Cave, Berkeley 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](mailto: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!



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

The DEAD DOG DISPATCH is a NON-PROFIT monthly newsletter published by the TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and FREE with FULL and ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the TRI-STATE GROTTTO.

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

### TRI-STATE GROTTTO 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 ---- -----

### TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP--- \$12.00 (Non-NSS)  
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)  
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY  
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00  
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR  
(SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#31**

**I.#1**

**JAN**

**2015**

**#2**

# CAVIN EVENTS

## 2016

JAN 1 --- NEW YEAR'S DAY  
JAN 13 --- TSG meeting - 7pm  
JAN 18 --- Martin Luther King Jr Day  
JAN 24 --- TSG Birthday  
JAN 29-31 --- Carter Caves Winter Adventure Weekend  
FEB 2 --- Ground Hog Day  
FEB 9 --- Fat Tuesday  
FEB 10 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm  
FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY  
FEB 15 --- President's Day  
MAR 9 --- TSG meeting - 7pm  
MAR 13 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS  
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY  
MAR 20 --- VERNAL EQUINOX  
MAR 25 --- GOOD FRIDAY  
MAR 27 --- EASTER  
APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
APR 2 --- P, B, & J DAY  
MAY 8 --- MOTHER'S DAY  
APR 13 --- TSG meeting - 7pm  
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 --- Adam Stephen Day - 9am  
MAY 11 --- TSG meeting - 7pm  
MAY 13-15 --- Spring MAR - Shade Gap, PA  
MAY 16 --- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 30 --- MEMORIAL DAY  
JUN 2-5 --- SERA Cave Carnival - Pigeon Mt, GA  
JUN 3-5 --- Bubble weekend  
JUN 8 --- TSG meeting - 7pm  
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY  
JUN 19 --- FATHER'S DAY  
JUN 20 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
JUL 17-23 --- NSS Convention - Ely, NV

The money was sent to SCCI.  
Keep It Coming!

## WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
NSS Convention 2016 ----- [www.nss2016.caves.org/](http://www.nss2016.caves.org/)  
OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
Jerry's Cave Web Site -----  
----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
Vitas Eidukevicius ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/)  
David Hackley's Web Site -----  
----- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>  
Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----  
[www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/)  
Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----  
----- [www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/)  
Animated Knots by Grog ----- [www.animatedknots.com/](http://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](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

### MONTH OF JANUARY

Chris Coates, Courtney Finkbeiner, Keith Hammersla, Samantha Hicks, Clint Hogbin, Clint Hogbin, Fritz Kysar, David Lucas, Corey Majtyka, Tim McDougale, Earl Suitor, Fiord'aliza Vis, Trish Walthers

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

\*\*\*\*\* 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 December ----- \$20.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6082.50

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#31**

**I.#1**

**JAN**

**2015**

**#3**



# REPORTS

## Wednesday Night Caving Chapman Cave

By John DiCarlo, NSS#25744

**Baker Heights, WV**-We met up at 7/11. Because of lack of parking we combined cars. We all fit into two cars. We had Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Tim Jordan, Doc Phillips, Scott Graham, Adam Oates and John DiCarlo on this trip. We drove to the site and parked. Gearing up we waited until everyone was ready.

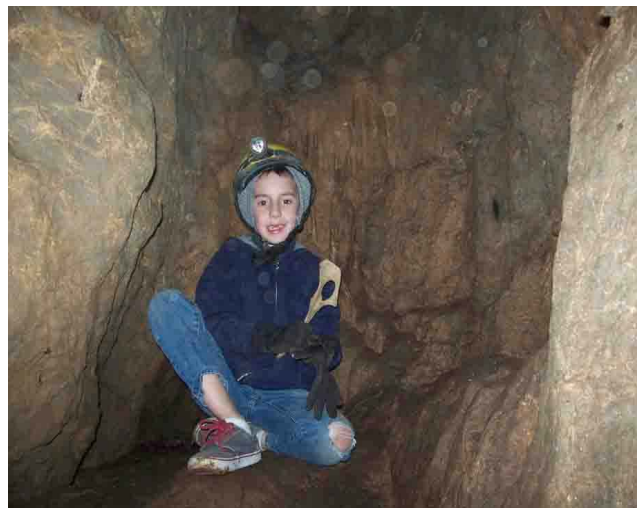
Heading into the woods we worked our way to a sinkhole. It was the one where another grotto had been digging before. We left there and continued through the woods. Finding the cave, I looked at the entrance and said, "I don't remember the opening being so small."



**The entrance to Chapman Cave,  
it is about 35" round.**

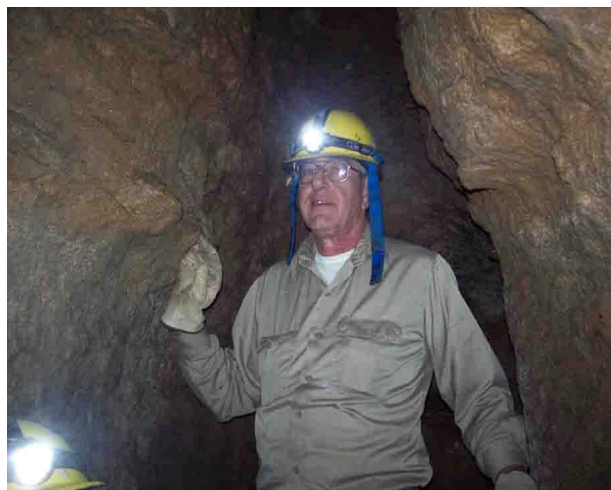
Last time I was here I said that if I ever came back again, I would go in head first. But, looking at the opening I was worried about getting stuck. I made my way down to the entrance and slid my feet in. I started kicking the dirt and dug with my heels. I knew I could kick the dirt down as the cave opened

up. It was a snug fit but I made it. Adam came down next.



**Adam Oates sitting on a  
ledge in the first room**

While we were waiting for the next person, I looked around and found what looked like a pelvis bone. Adam grabbed it up. He climbed up on a ledge and we waited for the next person to enter.



**Tim Jordan in the first  
room of Chapman Cave**

It wasn't long before Tim Jordan joined us in the room. After talking to the people outside it was determined that no one else was coming down.



**Looking around in  
the first room**

We looked around this room and saw that the ceiling was at least 30 feet up. We continued down the passage and had to do a climb-down.



**Looking at a  
climb-down**

Here we were in another room with a high ceiling. We looked around and I took pictures of any formations I saw. There were some nice ones.



**There are some nice formations  
in Chapman Cave**

Continuing on we worked our way through this room to another. Looking up we saw a shield and took several photos of it.



**Looking up at a Shield**



Looking around we saw where the cave continued down a few holes. They were tight and ended soon. We turned around and headed back toward the entrance.



**Adam Oates at the end of the cave**

Adam had found several bones. He wanted to keep them. I told him that his mother wasn't going to let him bring them into the house. Instead of arguing about it he said, "Yeah, you're right." I told him, "Let's find a spot to leave them." He said ok and placed them on top of a big bolder. I took some pictures.



**Deer bones that Adam Oates found in the cave**

I told Adam to stick his finger between the teeth like he was being bit and I would take another picture. It was a few days before Halloween. He did and it came out well.



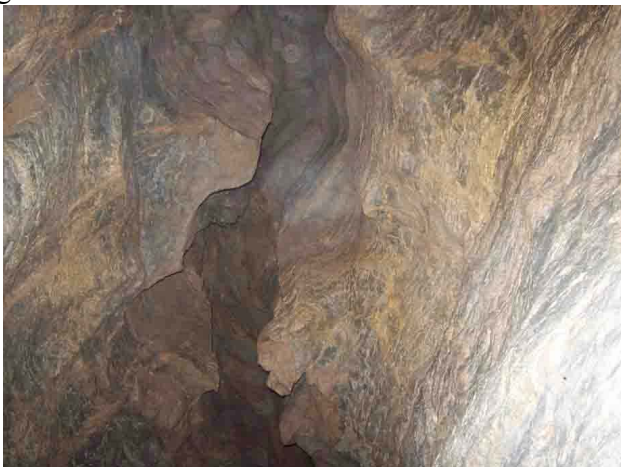
**Adam gets bit**

We continued on and made our way back to the entrance. Adam went out first. I followed him and inched my way out. I was very happy to see someone had put some webbing down to assist our climbing out. Thank you to whoever thought of it. Holding the webbing I pulled myself up while kicking around with my feet. They pulled the webbing tight and I pulled myself up a little more. They tightened the webbing up again and I repeated my movements. Finally I was out. Now it was Tim's turn. Bob told me later that he pulled Tim out.



**Coming into the  
second room on  
the way out**

I apologized to the members that didn't make it in, saying that I didn't remember the entrance being so tight.



**Looking up**

We talked about the next cave we would do for Wednesday Night Caving. We decided on Indian

River Cave. It has a big entrance and everyone will be able to fit in.



**More formations**

Now as far as the opening to Chapman cave. I wear a 33 size jeans. If someone is bigger than that, then this is not the cave to go to.

To see more pictures go to Tri-State Grotto's Facebook page and look for the Chapman Cave trip October 22, 2015

It is titled, Adam's Excellent Adventure.

**Cyclops Cave**  
**Yin & Yang — Constrictions & Rooms**  
Nov. 7, 2015  
EFF survey  
by Nikki Fox

Participants: Chris Coates, Nikki Fox and Scott McCrea

Chris Coates and I drove 4 hours from Harrisonburg, Va., down to Aaron Moses' house in Abington, Va., Friday after work. We slept in the comfort of his home and awoke Saturday morning well rested and ready to meet up with Scott McCrea for breakfast at the Chick-N-Little. After breakfast we caravanned to the cave and got underground at 11 a.m.

Our objective, to push and survey the dug crawl off of the Gas Chamber via the Olfactory Crawl. We arrived to the lead in over an hour and Chris offered to go in first, without his pack, of course. After some grunting and groaning, he managed to make it through the tight crawl and told us he was standing.

Back in the Gas Chamber, I started the book and sketch as Scott gave me numbers shooting double front sight. Our first station (EFF1) was on the east side of the tiny room. Scott proceeded to crawl through the dug passage and shouted out numbers along the way, with his own pack and Chris' in tow.

After four shots we were able to exit the crawl and stand in a canyon passage. This continued northwest for ~30 feet to a climb up where we entered a large room. When looking out from the climb, we saw a black spot in the rock that looked like a rabbit speeding across the ceiling. Hence, The Rabbit Room was named. The room was fairly round and

flat, with cracked dry mud making up the majority of the floor.



Nikki Fox sketching during the survey of Cyclops Cave (Photo by Scott McCrea)

On the southern end, The Rabbit Room room's floor gave way to a small "sink." Water dropped from the ceiling in several places and made the floor slimy with mud and cobbles. To the southwest we left two leads going down, where the drainage seemed to go.

Climbing through a hole exiting The Rabbit Room, Chris pushed down several unstable rocks out of the way. Chris reluctantly climbed up an unstable slope, trying to clean a route for the rest of us. I grabbed a small piece of webbing and he tied it to a solid anchor to assist Scott

and I up and down the unstable slope.

In an upper level, we continued southwest in a crappy rock-filled passage on our knees and hands, accompanied with random soda straws. Scott pushed the western end of the passage and worked on a sand/rock dig for a bit. He came back saying that it wasn't a viable lead. From there we had to step over a large crack in the floor to wiggle our way through a tight constriction.

The next room was rather wet, as there were several potholes in the floor holding water, and three streams, or water



spouts, of water coming from the ceiling along the north wall. Also in this room was a body-sized hole in the floor leading to the lower level. It should be noted that all the water coming in to the room was draining down the hole.

We pushed onward, arriving to formations of flowstone and more soda straws. We came into a highly decorated room where we could finally stand. It was filled with large stalagmites and stalactites on a high shelf. We left a crawling lead off of the room. After a short constriction, we entered a large room filled with huge breakdown blocks and dripping water everywhere. The northeast wall was covered in a massive flowstone formation, complete with drapery, bacon and stalactites, coming out of the ceiling. Chris pushed this high lead and said it kept going up, following the flowstone. We did not survey up there.

Instead, we continued on into the room, where we found a dome! I measured it at 28.5 feet tall and it had a flowstone wall on the southern edge. We took a passage heading northwest off of the room, and climbed over a large rock to yet another upper level. This small, crouching room had a flowstone floor that had a small amount of water flowing down it. It was enough to get you wet through your suit, so we waited no time fooling around here.

After yet another constriction we entered another room filled with more cobbles, flowstone and breakdown. We continued going upwards into a 27-foot high room. At the western end of the room a rock plugged the passage and made yet another construction! On the other side,

you could stand up in an area covered in cobbles and organic debris.

Scott was giddy at this point. He got even more excited when he noticed a small hole with blackness beyond, about seven feet high, continuing west. He climbed up and started to dig on the construction. After a bit, he handed it over to Chris and as he was digging I found an orange cave salamander in the passage, flying bugs and cave crickets crawling on the walls; all solid signs of an entrance nearby! Chris finally pushed through the hole by pushing a cave-pack-sized rock into the room.

Scott and I followed suit and we found ourselves in a free-climbable dome. At the highest point (EFF36) we found roots and some surface trash. But the passage ended, with no way to continue. Bummed that we had to go back through all the constructions and crawling, we decided to take a food break and then push our way out.

Three hours later, we were out of the cave, super wet and muddy. Scott crashed in his truck as Chris and I drove back to Aaron's house for a warmer night's sleep. Upon looking at the data, John Christie notified us that we actually did a big loop and ended up in the bottom of the sink right under the entrance. John has interest in digging it out.

### **The numbers:**

36 stations  
494.4 feet of survey  
13 hours underground

### **Leads Killed:**

1. The dug crawl from The Gas Chamber (EF16)

### Leads Generated:

1. EFF9, two passages going down, following drainage
2. EFF15, crack in the floor leading to lower level
3. Past the construction at EFF15, another lower level lead
4. EFF18, crawling passage
5. EFF20, high lead on flowstone wall

### Trip report for 1/4/2016 in Dead Dog Cave

After a very cold and windy hike to the cave entrance we were very excited to get in the comfortable warmth of the cave. Edgar and I dropped into the entrance using webbing at about 2 o'clock. We had given ourselves a 2 hour limit on the cave because neither of us had been into the cave before. The first picture is of Edgar looking down at the bones that give the cave it's name.



Edgar looking at the dog Bones (ShawnH)

Once out of the entrance area we made our way to what the map calls the "Register Room." This room

was a sort of hub for our travels. First we headed down "South Passage". Eventually we had made our way to what the map calls "The T" which was a combination of a small fissure and a keyhole. Neither of us felt confident enough to do it. We turned around and went back to the Register Room. The second picture is a poor picture of the South Passage.

We then moved in the opposite direction of the South Passage towards the "First Big Room" which did in fact live up to its name. The room did have an odor to it because it seems a raccoon or other sort of animal had made its way into the cave and had been defecting in most of the cave. It must have picked this room as its favorite spot. We also saw one little brown bat in this room. After taking a break for water we kept moving in the same direction. The passage we were in took a sharp left turn and then continued straight. We took a left. We had to chimney across a fissure and then we ended up in the "Formation Room" which was the prettiest room in the cave by far and honestly one of the nicer rooms that I have been into. This is the third picture. It does not do it justice because it shows only the first few feet and there is probably double of what you can see hidden by darkness.



The South Passage (ShawnH)



Formation Room (ShawnH)

From there we turned around and made our way back out of the cave. It only took us 20 minutes to make our way back. Once we got out of the cave we had to put the gate back on. The gate was a clumsy thing and took us about 40 minutes in all to get it back on. That was probably the worst part of the trip. However it was still an amazing trip and I hope to be going back in the future. From the looks of the maps there may still be 2 more full trips left for me to see!



Shawn coming out the entrance (ShawnH)

## MINUTES for NOVEMBER MEETING 11/11/15

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Christmas parts will not be a Bob & Paulette Bennett's home this year. Bob has checked with several places to see if we can have the party. The Bedington Ruritan Club meeting place has an open date of Sat, Dec 19th.

Kevin Hughes has 12 used harnesses for sale for \$10 each. Tom uses his harnesses for scouts. The Grotto will not supply scouts or any groups harnesses on any trip.

Laura Oates will draw up a design for the shirts for VAR. They will be sold at pre-registration only! The color will be emerald green. We will use the same logo on any & all correspondence about VAR.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CAVING: John talked about Chapmans Cave. John's grandson found some bones in the cave. The teeth found were identified as deer teeth.

The next Wed trip will be Donaldson Cave on Wed, Nov 18th at 6:45 pm. We will meet at the BP station at Exit 20.

WHO HAS BEEN CAVING? Terry took Nikki & Chris caving. The new pit turned out to be 138'. Bob took 20 people to Mystic Cave. Bob talked about 14 geologists TSG took to Molers Cave. The next day Tom took them to Donaldson Cave & Boyles Cave. Tom & Brent went to Baker Quarry and worked on the gate. Corey is working on another MD cave that already has 1000' of passage.

UPCOMING TRIPS: Donaldson Cave - Wed, Nov 18th - Meet at 6:45 pm at BP at Exit 20, Spring Mills.

Poor Farm Cave-Pocahontas Co - Sat, Nov 14th - Meet in Lewisburg at 10 am at Shoneys.

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#31**

**I.#1**

**JAN**

**2015**

**#11**



WVCC Banquet - Lewisburg, WV - 7 pm - Bob, Paulette, Tom & Terri plan on attending.

NOMINATIONS for OFFICERS:

Chair - John DiCarlo  
V-Chair - Bob Bennett  
Treasurer - Jerry Bowen  
Secretary - Tom Griffin & Paulette Bennett  
Will vote on officer at the Dec meeting.

CAVE BUCKS: \$43.00

Jerry is taking dues for 2016.  
John Adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted  
Paulette Bennett - Secretary

MINUTES for DECEMBER MEETING  
12/9/15

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS: The Christmas party will be held at the Bedington Ruritan Club on Sat, Dec 19th starting at 6 pm.

SPRING VAR: Date - Fri, Sat, & Sun April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th, 2016 at Endless Caverns. Signs needed - (2 at Rt 11), 3 left hand and 1 right hand - Kevin is making the signs. Pre-registration ends April 9th. Endless Caverns will offer full hookup campsites for 25% discount. No soda nor beer.

NEW BUSINESS: Cave projects: Digging in Donaldson or Nestle Quarry. There is usually a cave trip on Sunday after the Christmas party. John suggested TSG buy the lock for Molers Cave. John suggested TSG buy a new rope for Endless to use in the wild section. Instead terry is going to donate 100' of rope for them to use.

CAVE TRIPS: Doc went to Mystic.  
Wed, Dec 30th - Donaldson Cave - Dig &/or survey trip - Check signatures.

ELECTIONS:

Chair - John DiCarlo  
V-Chair - Bob Bennett  
Treasurer - Jerry Bowen  
Secretary - Tom Griffin & Paulette Bennett - Tied  
vote - There will be a revote at the Jan meeting.

CAVE BUCKS: \$20.00

John adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Paulette Bennett, Secretary



Signatures in Donaldson Cave (JohnD)

# SPRING VAR 2016 REGISTRATION FORM



Please fill out one (1) form per every primary registrant.

Spring VAR will be held at Endless Caverns, 1800 Endless Caverns Rd, New Market, VA 22844

**Early registration ends April 9th, 2016.** Onsite registration at the gate is \$40 for adults and \$35 for children ages 5-12. **Children under 5 are free. No pets please!**

PRIMARY REGISTRANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# \_\_\_\_\_ GROTTTO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDARY REGISTRANTS: (Same Household): NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS#: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS#: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS#: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS (ADULTS) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS (AGES 5-12) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL REGISTRATION PER HOUSEHOLD: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED SATURDAY EVENING. ORDER VEGETARIAN MEALS DURING PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY! INDICATE HERE NUMBER OF VEGETARIAN MEALS: (     )

## T-SHIRT ORDER FORM (Only Available during Pre-Registration)

SIZE	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	XL	XXL
QTY	(   )	(   )	(   )	(   )	(   )

TOTAL T-SHIRT ORDER: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_



**MAIL FORM TO: Spring VAR 2016, John DiCarlo, 19306 Burnside Bridge Rd., Keedysville, MD 21756**  
**CHECKS MUST BE MADE OUT TO: Tri-State Grotto of the NSS (Put Spring VAR in the memo line.)**

If you would like to camp in an Endless Cavern campsite please contact Endless Caverns at 540-896-2283 and they will assign you a campsite with full hookups at a 25% discount. Please tell them at the time that you are attending the Spring VAR and ask for the discount!

## **THE 2ND PAGE IS A LOTTERY FOR FOUR (4) ENDLESS CAVERNS WILD TRIPS**

TO BE FAIR EVERYONE'S NAMES WILL BE PUT IN A LOTTERY AS LONG AS YOU HAVE PRE-REGISTERED!

THE RULES:

- 1) YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED!
- 2) YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER!
- 3) THE TRIP WILL BE MODERATE TO HARD WITH SOME EXPOSURE!
- 4) TRI-STATE GROTTO MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE TRIPS! (WE CAN GO OTHER TIMES!)
- 5) YOU MUST TIP THE GUIDE (THE GUIDE IS BEING PULLED FROM HIS NORMAL DUTY OF GUIDED COMMERCIAL TOURS)!
- 6) THERE WILL BE FOUR (4) TRIPS TO THE WILD SECTION. YOU CAN PICK ONE (1) OR ALL FOUR (4). BUT YOU CAN ONLY ATTEND ONE (1) TRIP. IF YOU GET PICKED FOR A TRIP YOUR NAME WILL BE OMITTED FOR THE OTHER TRIPS!
- 7) IF YOUR NAME IS PICKED YOU CAN TAKE ONE (1) PERSON WITH YOU AS LONG AS THEY ARE OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE!
- 8) EACH TRIP WILL BE LIMITED TO 10 PERSONS!
- 9) FIVE (5) NAMES WILL BE DRAWN FOR EACH TRIP ALONG WITH TWO (2) RESERVES IN CASE ANY OF THE RECIPIANTS END UP NOT GOING!!
- 10) ALL SELECTIONS ARE FINAL!

**PLEASE SELECT ANY OR ALL TRIPS (REMEMBER YOU CAN ATTEND ONLY ONE (1) TRIP)!**

**Primary Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 7PM (   )**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 9AM (   )**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 1PM (   )**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24th - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 9AM (   )**

**Secondary Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 7PM (   )**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 9AM (   )**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 1PM (   )**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24th - TRIP WILL LEAVE AT 9AM (   )**

**IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REPLY TO: [springvar2016@myactv.net](mailto:springvar2016@myactv.net)**

***THE SELECTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AFTER PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 9TH, 2016!***





Tri-State Grotto of the NSS is hosting the 2016 Spring VAR at Endless Caverns on April 22-24, 2016.

***CAMPING AREA:***

We will be camping in the lower field. The field is flat and mowed. It is a large field so there will be plenty of room! Camping here is included with registration. There are limited showers available. **Please do not bring pets!**

***ENDLESS CAMPSITES with FULL HOOKUPS:***

If you would like to camp in one of the Endless camping sites with full hookups please contact Endless Caverns once you have pre-registered and request a site. Tell them you are with the VAR. Endless will charge you at a 25% discount!

***HOTELS:***

If you would like a hotel/motel there are 3 in New Market: Budget Inn, Quality Inn & Days Inn. Call early if you want one.

***VENDORS:***

Inner Mountain Outfitters (<http://innermountainoutfitters.com/>)

Highline Ropes (<https://www.facebook.com/highlineropes>)

***FRIDAY NIGHT:***

There will be a Friday night wine tasting at the Recreation Hall. Bring a bottle of wine (\$10 or less). There will be Bluegrass music playing during the event.

***VAR T-SHIRT:***

**VAR T-shirt available at Pre-Registration only!**



### ***SATURDAY NIGHT:***

Hank's Smokehouse Southern Grillery will cater the Saturday night dinner at the Recreation Hall. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm! The dinner will consist of Pork BBQ, Marinated Chicken Breast, Red Skin Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans & Ham, Chocolate Cake or Spice Cake. There is a Vegetarian meal of Vegetarian Lasagna which needs to be selected on the Pre-Registration Form. There are several tables and chairs available. If you want to assure that you have a seat please bring camp chairs! The Recreation Hall will also be the site for the speaker. There is a large screen and projector available.

### ***SPEAKER:***

Wil Orndorff will be the after dinner presentation. He will talk about the '*Biodiversity of Appalachian Karst with the Emphasis on the Virginias*'.

### ***DOOR PRIZES:***

Door prizes, the 50/50 raffle and the Highline rope raffle will be given out after the dinner and talk! You must be present to win the door prizes and the highline rope!

### ***PARTY:***

After the dinner and the speaker, John Fox will be playing his vibrations until midnight! Because of the Virginia ABC wanting permits and fees, WE WILL NOT PROVIDE BEER! This solves a lot of problems. If you like to drink please BYOB! This is a public campground so please be discreet!

### ***SUNDAY MORNING:***

Front Royal Grotto has agreed to hold its Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning starting at 8am.

The ever popular VAR Business Meeting will start at 9am in the recreation hall.

### ***CONSERVATION PROJECT:***

There will be a conservation project in Endless Caverns. You will be hiding wiring that is exposed to the eyes of visitors.

### ***ER-NCRC VERTICAL WORKSHOP:***

Carl Amundson of the ER-NCRC will be conducting a vertical workshop to help cavers fine tune their existing climbing systems, practice ascending techniques, and practice change-overs. If you have no vertical techniques and have the equipment they will teach you.

There will also be a rebelay course set up for those who are inclined to practice and push their limits.

The Vertical Workshop will run from Friday evening until Saturday night.

If you have any questions reply to: [springvar2016@myactv.net](mailto:springvar2016@myactv.net)



# CAVIN CALENDAR

## JANUARY 10TH - FEBRUARY 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13  Meeting 7pm	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16
Jan 17	Jan 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22	Jan 23
Jan 24  TRI-STATE GROTTTO BIRTHDAY	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30
Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6
Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9 FAT TUESDAY	Feb 10  Meeting 7pm	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13
Feb 14  VALENTINE'S DAY	Feb 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20



# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



A Tight Squeeze in Donaldson Cave (MikeW)



## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS  
BOB BENNETT, BOB BENNETT, ED  
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR  
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344  
304-821-4621  
gimpycaver@comcast.net

