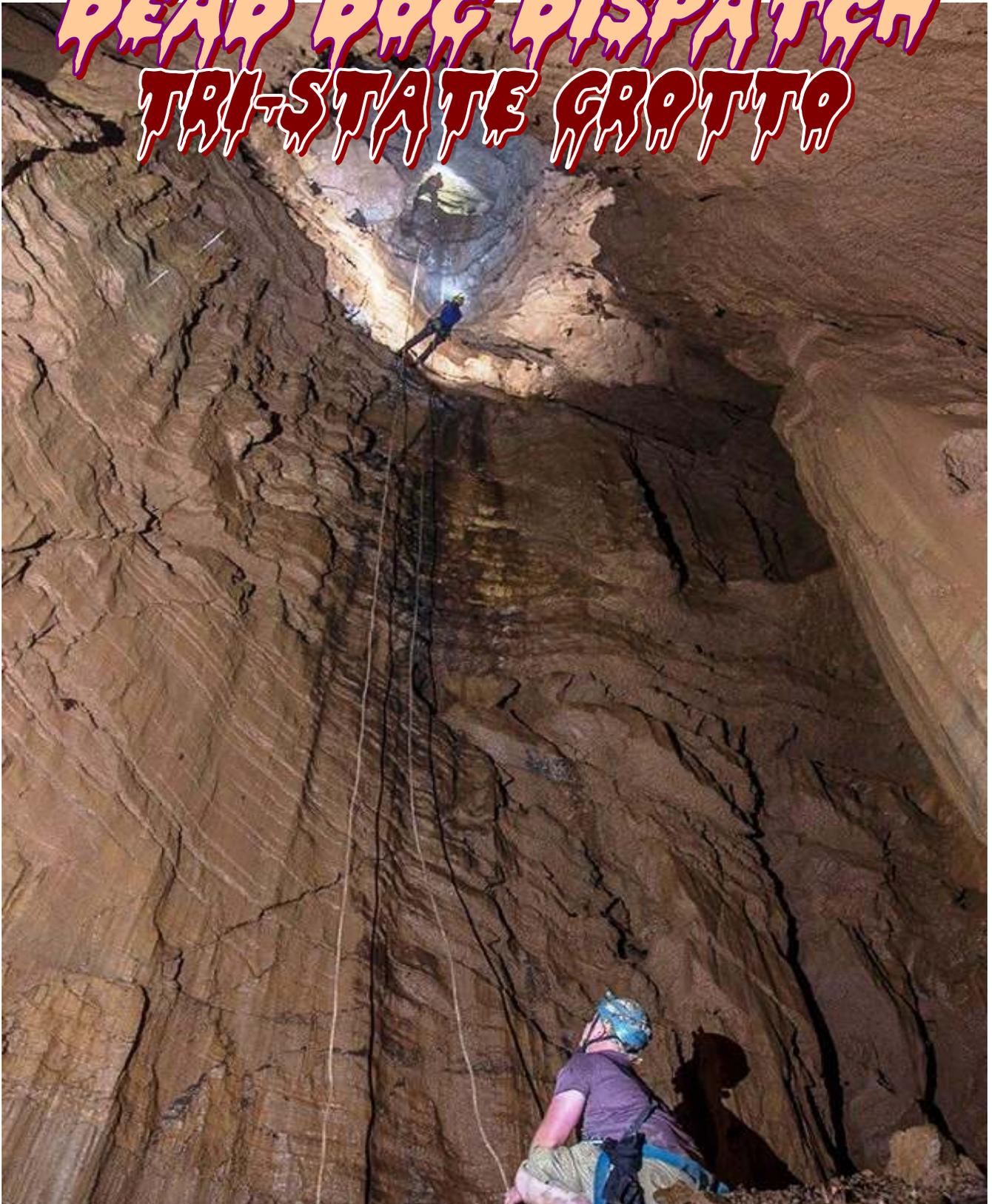


DEAD RAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



SHREVE HOOWELL PIT, RANDOLPH CO, WV

VOL. #31

ISS. #7

JUL

2016

#97



(FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

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

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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**.

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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 is the entrance pit to Shreve Howell Pit in Randolph Co, WV. I would like to thank Ryan Maurer for allowing me to use this and several other photos in this month's newsletter.

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

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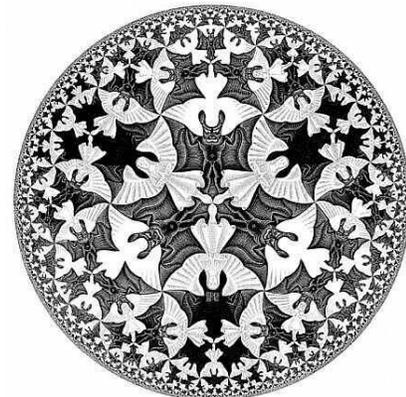
**** Don't forget, the **JONES QUARRY BOOKLET** is **STILL** available at a reasonable price **\$6.00**. There is only a couple left! If you are interested in purchasing the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT 304-821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** E-MAIL at gimpycaver@comcast.net

*******ONLY 2 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)
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)
(FULL FAMILY- must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)



CAVING EVENTS

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

2016

- JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY
- JUL 9 --- Adam Stephen dig - 9:30am
- JUL 13 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
- JUL 14 --- YMCA trip into Jones Quarry - 10:30 am
- JUL 15-17 --- Trip to Franklin , WV - see Doc
- JUL 18-22 --- NSS Convention – Ely, NV
- JUL 28 ---- YMCA trip to Jones Quarry - 10:30 am
- AUG 4-7 --- Indiana Cave Capers
- AUG 10 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
- AUG 11 ---- YMCA trip to Jones Quarry -10:30 am
- AUG 20 --- Annual TSG picnic - Blue Ridge Acres, Harpers Ferry, WV - 12pm
- SEP 1-5 --- OTR
- SEP 3 ---- Doo Dah Parade - 10am
- SEP 5 ---- LABOR DAY
- SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY
- SEP 14 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
- SEP 23 --- Fall MAR, Woodward Cave, PA
- SEP 23 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX
- SEP 30-OCT 2 ---- Fall VAR - Poor Farm Park, Greenbrier Co, WV
- OCT 6-9 --- Fall TAG Cave-In - Lookout Mt, GA
- OCT 12 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
- OCT 15 --- Bridge Day
- OCT 31 --- All Hallows Eve (Halloween)
- NOV 9 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
- NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
- NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkin's Day
- NOV 24 --- THANKS GIVING DAY
- NOV 25 --- BLACK FRIDAY

- 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

***** 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 MAY ----- \$45.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6236.50

The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF JULY

Lynn DiCarlo, Bob Edmonds, Scott Graham, Kathy Robinson, Nuch Songsasen, Terri Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REPORTS

TSG Meeting
6/8/16

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

Old Business: The Grotto helped with Adam Stephen Day on Sat, May 14, 2016.

John & Bob talked about the computer that Craig Stihler needs for DNR field work.

Bob talked about the Rules for Jones Quarry Visitation. John is taking a trip with YMCA to JQ on June 30. John said that the YMCA leaders were asking about the names of the different rooms in JQ.

Bob talked about the Grotto Library. He said that there is probably close to 200 books in the library.

New Business: There is a new person in charge of reporting on the different NSS Grotto newsletters.

Tom talked about Sites Cave having a new owner. The cave is closed for now and the new owner is asking to have a fence put around the entrance. Earl Suitor is in contact with the owner.

No information about Mystic yet. (Since the meeting a notice has come out that "Mystic Cave Is Closed Until Further Notice!")

Tom talked about sinks near Lewisburg that the owner wants us to look at. We are meeting at Walmart in Lewisburg on Sat, Jun 11 about 9:00 am.

John talked about Wed night caving.

Tom talked about the cave/shelter in Harpers Ferry that we looked at and surveyed. It is named Potomac Grill Shelter.

Shawn talked about taking a group caving in Whittings Neck Cave on Wed, Jun 15. It will be a Wed night caving trip. Meet at 6:00 pm.

Tom talked about some of the different trips to Baker Quarry & Carols Crack Cave.

Trips: Shawn went to R&R Cave. He said that the owner wants to put a gate on it.

Don Arrowood went to Waynesboro Cave. He talked about other caves in Franklin Co, PA. He is also looking for Shockey's Cave along the Mason-Dixon Line and Titus Cave near White Tail. The vegetation was too tall to really make a serious effort.

Doc is going to Pendleton Co caving the weekend of Jun 24-25. Will be visiting Hamilton & Key caves along with others as time allows.

Cave Bucks: \$21.00 - SCCI

The NSS is planning a New Years Eve Celebration at Huntsville to help raise money for the NSS (\$100 each). This includes dinner, dancing, and camping.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Paulette Bennett
Secretary
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Shreve Howell Pit

In the last week in June I was able to get some caving done. After searching for Shreve-Howell Pit on a previous day for 8 hours, we came back more prepared and determined to find the cave. We did in fact find the cave and we were a little embarrassed to find out that the cave was only 50 feet away from one of the places we stopped to look for the cave. After the excitement had waned, we rigged the pit and I was the first to drop into it. Shreve-Howell is about a 120 foot pit that has next to no cave at

the bottom. The entrance to the pit is a mud funnel that gets down to about 3 feet around. Once you get past that "tight" spot the pit opens up to probably 60 feet wide. It is a very fun pit to drop, and would love to go back again. Most of it is free hanging.

After taking a handful of pictures we were done in the cave. My friend Edgar and I had decided to have an ascending race out of the cave (we had rigged two ropes). After I was about halfway up it was clear Ed was going slow and when I called down to him he told me that the harness was not being kind to him. The race was called off due to a technicality. It just gives us a reason to go back.

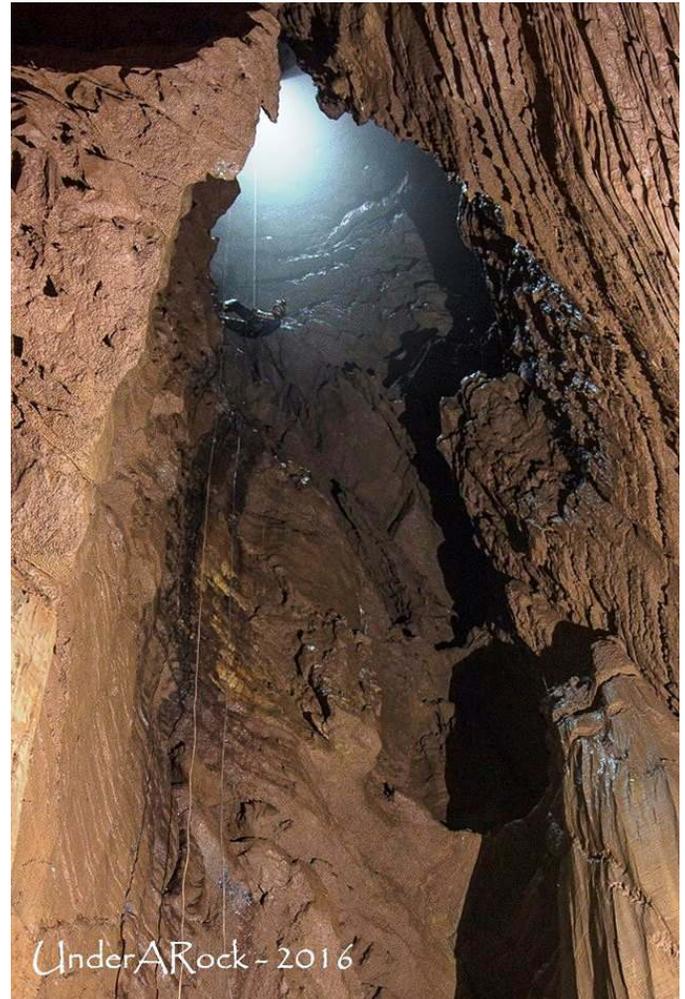
The day after that we had plans to go do a 14 hour trip into Friars Hole to the Rubber Chicken Highway. Since the area was still dealing with flooding, and there was a flash flood warning we decided to nix the trip. Instead we headed over to Maxwellton Cave.

It was my first time in the cave so I was having a blast. We had plans to go to Thunder Dome. On our way there we went through the Heaven Passage which did live up to its lofty name. There was helictites all over, a good portion of them were covered in completely white calcite. You would think it would get old after a few feet, but no, it's still very pretty even after a several hundred feet.

Once we got to Cove Creek we started to see some pretty eerie signs of flooding. One of the most travelled areas of the cave had no footprints, they all had been covered in fresh mud. Then we walked to the actual creek we saw that it was very very low. Members of our group theorized that the low water was caused by a plug somewhere up stream. Once we realized that, quickly exited the cave. We left the cave at almost twice the speed we entered. After we surfaced, I was done for the day and headed back to the Eastern Panhandle.

-Shawn Hogbin

P.S. Ryan has pictures of S-H uploaded and we didn't take any pics of Maxwellton.



Shreve Howell Pit (by Ryan Maurer)

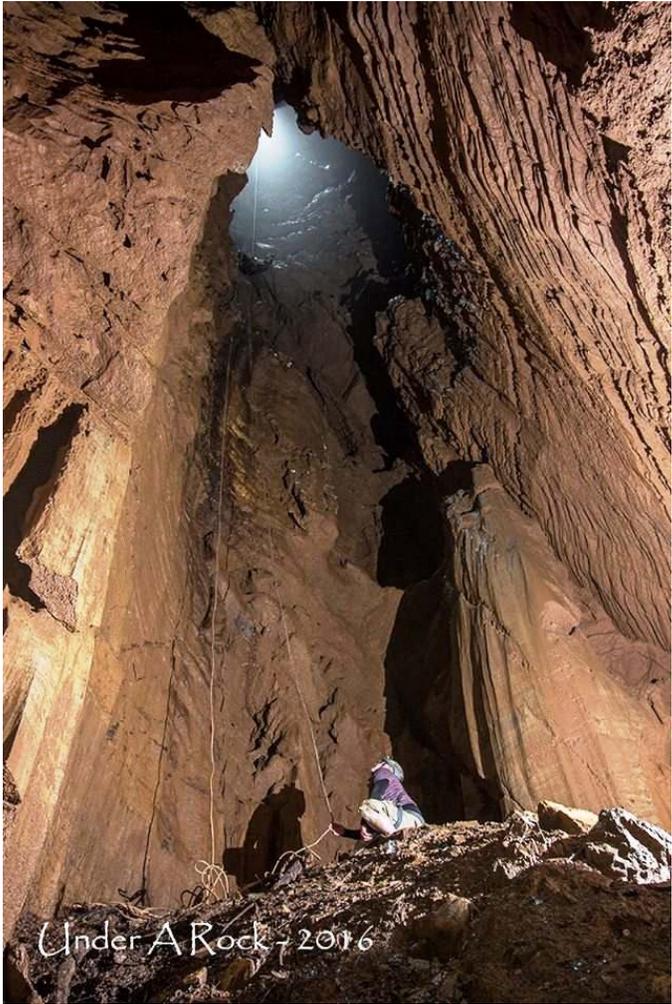


(by Ryan Maurer)



Under A Rock - 2016

Shawn Hogbin climbing out of SH Pit (by Ryan M)



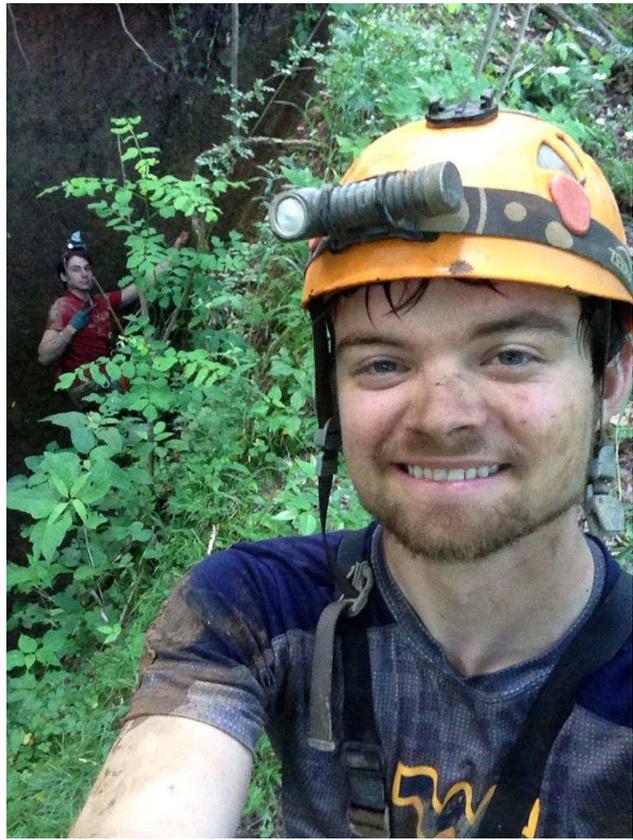
Under A Rock - 2016

(by Ryan Maurer)

Young & Dumb

This story takes place 38 years ago when I got started into caving. The year was 1978 and I was 32 years old. I had never been caving before. Of course I had been in plenty of commercial caves and loved every minute of it. But as far as caving, well, "I never lost anything in a cave so there was no reason to go caving!" Even as a child whenever I saw a sinkhole or a small cave entrance I was really scared to go into the unknown.

In June of 1978 my family and my brother-in law Chuck Stanley and his wife were traveling through WV for vacation. We would do that sort of thing. We would pick out an area whether it be WV or TN and we would travel to places that we could find on a map. We never had a plan but we would just look at a map (you could get one at almost any gas



By the mud on Ryan's face it's apparent that he had a good time

station for free) and pick out something and try to find it.

At this time we saw something on the map that peaked our interest. It was a dot that said 'Sinks of Gandy'. We had no idea what it was but we were going to find it! We were all over the mountain. I believe that we were on almost every back road in the area and still had no idea what we were looking for. We happened to see a ranger and we stopped and asked him where the Sinks of Gandy was. He proceeded to give us directions but we missed something along the way. We still couldn't find it!

On a long lost back road we came upon an elderly farm woman getting her mail and we stopped and asked her if she knew where the Sinks of Gandy was. She said, "Yes, you are actually close to it." She proceeded to tell us where to go and each turn to make. She then said that there was a gate in the fence. We were to park just up the road from the fence on the curve. We then were to walk to the gate, climb over it and follow the old road down over the long hill. She said that Gandy Creek flowed into a big hole in the hill! Well we had to see that! We were really excited. We had never seen a big hole with water flowing into it!

Sure enough when we got to the bottom of the hill there was a beautiful creek flowing lazily into a huge hole in the side of the hill! This really excited us! In all there was Chuck, his wife Kim, Paulette, and 2 of my boys, Jamey (8) and Derek (4). Chuck and I literally ran back to the vehicles to get flashlights! We shared the entrance with a herd of cattle who were just trying to keep cool in the summer hot sun.

We waded in and went until you could not see daylight. Since we only had 2 flash lights we turned around. But it was too late! Chuck & I had been 'bit by the bat'!

We headed home after vacation but all we could talk about was going back with flashlights and seeing the 'unknown'! We made plans to come back on Labor Day weekend. Chuck was in the Marines at the time so he took leave and when Labor Day arrived we headed back to WV to camp. We were

experienced outdoorsman so we knew that we needed plenty of light, snacks, something to protect us from danger, and a means of communication.

Arriving at the parking site Chuck, my oldest son Jamey (8 yrs old), and I geared up for the trip into the unknown. The 3 of us each had a flashlight, hunting knives on our side, and Chuck carried my 40 channel walky-talky. We each had on a baseball cap, shorts, no shirt, no socks, and tennis shoes. But yet we were smart! We knew that when batteries went dead we would need more batteries so we each had our pockets full of batteries and a couple of candy bars. In case we ran into trouble we told Paulette & Kim to turn on their CB radios and we would contact them with the 40 channel walky-talky. WE WERE READY!

We headed down to the entrance and headed into the 'black unknown'! This was exciting! After all we saw water, rocks, and holes everywhere! It was really spooky! At times we were wading in water up to our waist. Occasionally we would find a deeper hole but we would try to find an easier way. After all my son was only 8! Of course we had no idea how far this dark hole went but we were determined to see it to the end!

We had no idea at the time but looking back now, about 1/2 way through we ran into a group that was traveling slower than we were. They looked like miners to us. They had coveralls, boots, packs, hard hats, and head lamps. Chuck & I kept talking to each other saying things like, "Maybe we ought to follow them. They looked like the might actually know what they were doing!" Of course they kept turning around and staring at us. They were probably thinking, "Boy if that ain't an accident waiting to happen!"

We continued to follow them until we came to a pool of water blocking out path. Several of the group waded into the pool and came back saying that there had to be another way. Well Chuck and I were determined to find the way on before they did. We started looking around. We found a small hole that led to somewhat of a chimney. It was muddy but we were determined! Alas it didn't go. When we came back out the group was gone! My youngest

son started to cry and said that, "We were lost!" We assured him that we were not lost and if we couldn't find the way on we could always retrace our steps back to the original opening.

We continued to look around because we were sure that the group didn't go back. Finally I found scrape marks over a mud bank. When I slip/slid over the bank I followed the passage and came out into a room where I smelled fresh air. I went back to get Chuck and Jamey. We went to the room and looked for the way out. Chuck found the passage leading to the dry entrance.

We were celebrating, slapping hands, and cleaning off in the creek. Now we had one more problem! We had no idea where we were! Chuck handed me the walky-talky and I started shouting for Paulette. Finally she answered. Of course they had been worried because it had been several hours since they had heard from us. I told her to blow the horn on the truck to give us a direction to go. Whenever we thought we were lost I just told her to blow the horn and it kept getting closer. Finally we saw the trucks up on the hill. WE WERE SAVED!

Now we really were 'bit by the bat'! We couldn't wait to go back. The next year on Memorial Day we planned another 'excursion' into the unknown but this time we were going to include Chuck's baby brother Junior and his best friend Donnie! After all we wanted to share our excitement with good friends!

Now that is another story!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bob Bennett
NSS21847



The previous picture was taken of me coming out of the remains of Frog Pond Cave, near Martinsburg, WV.

YMCA Trip to Jones Quarry Cave

On May 9, a group of 3 cavers, one of whom is new to the Tri-State grotto club, explored Jones Quarry Cave, accompanied by John DiCarlo. This was the first time caving for 2 of the young ladies in the group. The third group member, Meredith Smith, new club member, was very excited to get back into this cave, as it had been a year since she last explored Jones Quarry. The group met at McDonalds and traveled to the cave together.

After signing Vivian's famous cave ledger, the group made their way up into the cave entrance.

Meredith and John found that while both were rather familiar with the layout of the cave, they had different names for the same reference points.

The group first traveled to the trophy room, aka The Upper Room, where over the years folks have made mud sculptures that remain today. Then, with the assistance of John's very bright 2,000 loom light, the group checked out one of the most fantastic formations of curtains in the cave. The group then moved up toward the slide, and entering the elusive Bowl Room, containing a natural bowl formation, sometimes full of water.

Alas, the bowl was dry. After sliding through a passage beginning at the top of the slide, which exits at the bottom, the group began traversing towards the Break Down Room, approaching the Column Room. John shared a safer way to traverse a rather exposed ledge, leading the group back to the starting point and then out.

Meredith Smith



CRAWN CALENDAR

JULY 10TH - AUGUST 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 10	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 13  Meeting 7pm	Jul 14 Jones Quarry Cave YMCA	Jul 15 Franklin, WV caving - see Doc	Jul 16 Franklin, WV caving - see Doc
Jul 17 Franklin, WV caving - see Doc	Jul 18 NSS Convention Ely, NV	Jul 19 NSS Convention Ely, NV	Jul 20 NSS Convention Ely, NV	Jul 21 NSS Convention Ely, NV	Jul 22 NSS Convention Ely, NV	Jul 23
Jul 24	Jul 25	Jul 26	Jul 27	Jul 28 Jones Quarry Cave YMCA	Jul 29	Jul 30
Jul 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6
Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9	Aug 10  Meeting 7pm	Aug 11 Jones Quarry Cave YMCA	Aug 12	Aug 13
Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20 TSG Annual Grotto picnic at Blue Ridge Acres river front - 12 noon

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Those above helped to gate Keller Cave near Toms Brook, VA



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