

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



ADAM STEPHEN PIT, BERKELEY CO, WV

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*** The cover this month was taken by **Tom Griffin** at the **Adam Stephen Day** event, **Berkeley Co, WV**. It shows **Russell Linton** giving a tour.

**** 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!



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CAVING EVENTS

2016

NOV 5 ---- Jones Quarry – Boy Scout trip – 10am –
See Tom Griffin
NOV 5 ---- Hamilton Cave-see Doc
NOV 6 ---- **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**
NOV 9 ---- **TSG meeting - 7pm**
NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
NOV 12 ---- Hamilton Cave – see Cheryl Sutor
NOV 12 ---- **Annual WVCC Banquet –**
Lewisburg, WV – 7pm
NOV 12-13 --- Snyder property, Greenbrier Co,
WV – Survey 4 caves – Start work on
Sinkhole cleanup & shoring another
sinkhole – see Tom Griffin & Jeff
Hajenga
NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkin's Day
NOV 19 ---- Sinkhole cleanup – Rockingham Co,
VA – see Janet
NOV 24 --- **THANKS GIVING DAY**
NOV 25 --- **BLACK FRIDAY**
DEC 3 ---- **Annual TSG Christmas Celebration**
– at Bedington Ruritan – 6pm
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 ---- **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

***** 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 OCTOBER ----- **\$35.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$6359.50**

The money was sent to SCCI.

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2016 ----- www.nss2016.caves.org/
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
Jerry's Cave Web Site -----
----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>
Vitas Eidukevicius ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Vitas/
David Hackley's Web Site -----
---- <http://s180.photobucket.com/albums/x307/clearsig/>
Bob Gulden ----- www.caverbob.com/home.htm/
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/
Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/
Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
White Nose Syndrome -----
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/wns-notice-to-cavers.pdf>
WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>
WNS -----
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>
Containment Procedures -----
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>
Crystal Grottoes Caverns -----
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Nikki Fox, Tom Griffin, Terry
McClanathan, Sheila Riley, Johnny Robinson, Jr,
John Scrivener

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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REPORTS

Not cave related, but.....

Backpacking in Colorado

September 5 - September 15, 2016

by Jerry Bowen

Folks have asked me, why it was that I didn't make it to OTR this year. The reason was that I was able to get in on a backpacking trip to Colorado. I retrieved from mothballs, my SVEA 123 climber stove, my down sleeping bag and other backpacking items I have stored over the years.

My son-in-law's father, John Kershner was going to guide me around the state. John has made it a goal of his to climb 14,000 foot mountains in Colorado. There are 54 of them and John has done 38. Our goal was to go out and climb some more.

Our first attempt came at climbing Mt Shavano and crossing a mile over a saddle to Mt Tabawash. Two for the price of one. Camping at 10,500 feet and not quite to the tree line on Tuesday night. We saw magnificent views along with goats and weather worn trees.

Our second goal was to drive to another location and climb Red Cloud and cross over another saddle to Sunshine Peak. Again, two for the work of one. From Lake City, Colorado we took a dirt road up to the parking area at about 10,500 feet. Since it was raining, we decided to climb with the truck a little higher towards Cinnamon Pass. This road would eventually come out in Silverton. We turned around at about 12,500 feet and photographed the American Basin area. I found a really nice sinking stream and the entrance to a cave in the American Basin. And since it briefly stopped raining, we set up our camp. It rained hard four times that night, and was raining in the morning, so we headed off to the Sand Dunes National Park.

There, I got my eyes opened to hundreds of acres of sand. There was no beach nearby, but there was lots of sand. I am not sure how it all got there, but can only guess. The valley is about 80 miles wide there, and flat. The wind will pick up the lightest particles (sand) and blow them east, towards the mountains. The mountains stop the flying sand and accumulates there in great piles (that's my guess). We watched as people would slide down a hill like it was covered with snow. The wind blows and changes the hills, and covers the foot prints in just a few hours. Then we headed for Telluride.

In Telluride, we were able to ride a tram that operates a lot like a ski lift. First we went down, to a station, then up to another station, and finally down to the downtown Telluride area. We walked around taking pictures and behaving much like tourists. There are a lot of movie stars who own homes in the area and the real estate showed it. The whole place was very picturesque! It was just the beginning of September, but the Aspen trees were starting to change already! The drive to Cortez and Durango was delightful and photogenic. In Cortez, we had dinner with a friend of John's and moved on to Durango.



The Durango – Silverton train running across the highline just above the Animas River.

The next morning we took the narrow gauge railroad from Durango. We loaded our backpacks into a box car along with others making the same trip. We didn't go all the way to Silverton, but stopped at the Needle Creek whistle stop, a trail

head for Needle Creek and the Chicago Basin camping area. Sixty people got off the train there, it was a real circus! We had six miles to hike before camping. In the Chicago Basin, there are three mountains to climb that are over 14,000 feet. Mount Windam, Mt. Euolus and Mt. Sun Light. Our goal was to climb all three of these summits and we camped about three miles from them.

The first morning had us trekking up the trail into some beautiful wilderness. There must have been at least a hundred infeeders to Needle Creek! The sun was shining but it was windy. The wind could blow in weather, so we kept watching it. I cannot believe the huffing and puffing that went on, and the stopping to rest. But we kept at it! After a mile and a half, we shed our hiking sticks and started to climb boulders. It was like bouldering in a cave but without a ceiling! There were several false summits, but finally our goal came into sight, the top of Mount Windam. John and I made it within a minute or so of each other.



Jerry taking pictures from the top of Mt Windham, elevation 14,038' – No oxygen!

We watched as the younger folks summited all three mountains in one day! Here come some of them now. One young girl had heard that John had a stitch kit with him. On the top of the world, she showed him a gash on her shin she incurred while climbing. John told her that he would sew it up when we got back to camp, which he did. That evening, John looked at me, and I looked at him. It was already dark and we had only summited one

peak that day, and the trail up there, really wrung the starch out of us. We both realized that climbing the other two summits in the following days was not going to happen, so we camped a second night and started back down the trail in the morning. We took the train back to Durango and spent another night. That trip to the Chicago Basin and the summit trip to Mount Windham had to be the capstone of our trip!

Essentially done, we were on our way back to the airport in Denver. Stopping along the way, there was the trip to see hot springs, Saint Elmo's ghost town, and the Rocky Mountain National Park. At the Rocky Mountain National Park, we drove the loop trail on our last day there. I was in for a big surprise at the end of the loop as there was a Bowen Mountain, and a Bowen trailhead. I still have to figure out what that's all about.

In ten days-time, I had gotten to see the whole south west corner of Colorado. The place where John has played for a lot of his life. He mentioned the Colorado Trail, much like the Appalachian Trail. The Colorado Trail starts in Denver and ends in Durango and is a bit over 400 miles. He talked about doing that trail and finding a hiking partner. And, who knows? I might be going back. What a beautiful country!



John Kershner signing the log sheet much the same way that cavers do. (Photos by Jerry Bowen)

Adam Stephen Dig

By John DiCarlo, NSS# 25744

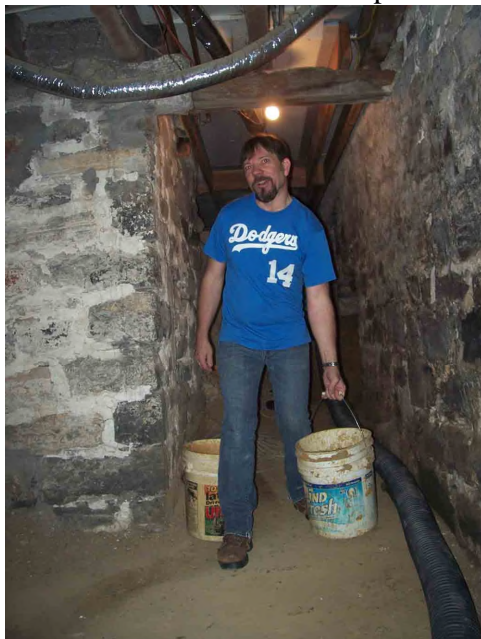
Martinsburg, WV-On July 9, 2016 Tri-State Grotto returned to the Adam Stephen House to continue their dig for the tunnels.

These tunnels were cave passages that the Adam Stephen House was built over, to have an escape, in case of Indian attack.



Russell Linton and Bob Bennett waiting for a bucket of dirt

We first got our work site set up. The end of the piping was lowered down for fresh air. Extension cords were placed. The grotto Wacker and bits were lowered down into the dig site, and the rope and buckets were set up.



Keith Hammersla carries a bucket of dirt out.

Tom went down to start the dig. His sights were set on a large rock. He had the Wacker chipping away at it and soon was sending buckets of rocks up.



Mason Griffin ready to pull up a bucket
Mason was pulling the buckets up and several people were helping to haul them out.
The work was slow; by lunch we had 27 buckets pulled out.



Peter Allphin brings out another bucket of dirt

We moved over to the Triple Brick Building, and Keith had a feast laid out for lunch.



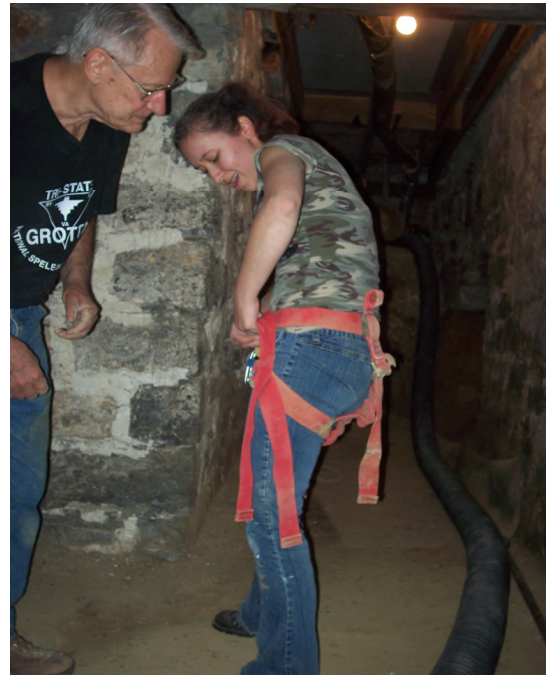
Part of our lunch crowd

After lunch we headed back to the dig with several people sliding down into the hole.



Russell Linton manhandling a bucket of dirt

Again, dirt and mostly pieces of rock, were hauled up, carried outside, and dumped on the hillside. We have extended the hillside out at least ten feet along the cliff.



Russell Linton oversees Andreea Whittey, as she puts on a harness.

As people came out of the dig site, others took their places.



Andreea Whittey heading down to the dig site. We kept up the dig till it was time to knock off. We took 33 buckets out in the afternoon for a total of 60 buckets for the day.



Todd Zimmerman getting into his harness

The helpers were: Russell Linton, Tom Griffin, Bob Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Andreea Whittey, Peter Allphin, Mason Griffin, Todd Zimmerman, Keith Hammersla and John DiCarlo.

For the day there were 60 buckets taken out.

Tri-State Grotto didn't pop out into the going passage this time. Who knows, maybe next time? (All photos by John DiCarlo)

Mercer County –

Jeff Hajenga, George Dasher, Dave Socky, - Finished mapping of Jones Cave. Final passage length of just over a mile.

Wednesday Night Caving Vertical Edition

By John DiCarlo, NSS# 25744

Hedgesville, WV-On September 28, 2016 Tri-State Grotto met up at James Rumsey Technical Institute to work on our rope work.



The Grotto had brought three climbing systems so people could check them out to see which they would like better.



Arriving on site, Eric Armer directed us where to park and enter the building. Adam and I grabbed our things and walked into the masonry classroom. Looking around there were brick and block walls being built all around. These were the students' projects. There was also sand all over the floor. This gave us a more outside feeling.



Carl Amundson drove up to help us set up and to show how to use the different systems. Some of the rope we had set up was his. Tom Griffin also set up ropes.

There was scaffold set up two levels high. They were climbed, and pulleys were installed. Ropes were run through the pulleys and anchored at the bottom of the scaffold. This way we could feed rope through to give someone a longer climb. Next time we need to find a better anchor, because sometimes the weight on the rope lifted the scaffolding off the floor. This surprised us.



We had four ropes set up and in no time they had someone on them. We took turns so everyone had a chance to climb and to check out the three different systems we had there. We had a rope walker, a frog, and a Mitchell system.



(All Photos by John DiCarlo)

Carbide Revisited – The Carbide Trip

At the TSG meeting on October 12th several suggestions for Wednesday night caving were made and Tom Griffin and I have been discussing doing a carbide trip during the summer. Since Jones Quarry Cave has a two-week grace period, we decided to visit the cave old timer's style, on October 26th – a flame trip just before Halloween.

I personally have been through at least three different types of lighting systems in my many years of caving starting with the carbide lamp, going to high-powered filament light carrying a lead acid battery, and finally today's LEDs. At one time all these different types of caving lights were considered state of the art. The nostalgia of experiencing the smell of an acetylene lamp and dealing with a flame seemed enticing.

Gathering gear was a challenge. Tom and I came up with extra lamps and helmets to share with those who either wore out or lost theirs or those who have never owned an old time miner's lamp and headgear to accommodate a carbide lamp. Charlotte had several lamps, which also appeared to be in very good condition although the one selected for the trip had a worn rubber seal between the main body and the cup that did not hold tight, leaking acetylene once water was added and causing an entertaining display. I use the word entertaining because I have experienced this type of carbide lamp behavior and knew what to do. A malfunctioning carbide lamp can be a very intimidating device with a ring of bright flames emitting from center of the lamp, but fortunately it is a low-pressure apparatus and can be easily controlled.

The carbide cavers that day were Tom, Charlotte, Bob, Tim, and myself. Craig and Danny used red light LEDs in the hopes of not disturbing the pleasant golden glow that a flame lighting system provides. The acetylene flame is not that bright but has a very warm glow giving the cave and its formations an alive and mysterious appearance. Unlike electric lights, focused flame light has limitations and has a tendency to remind one that a cave is a very deep dark place. Up the rope to the cave we climbed, and after passing through the gate, we paused just a few yards from the entrance. When our group was together we ambled down another hand line passage and moved around to a small climbing area where we encountered a very small black salamander. I thought cave life was either white or pastel. Either way, that area of the cave was more adventurous on the return trip.

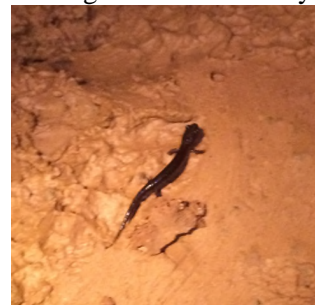
Our next stop was near exit number three which is now filled in and impassable. We sat on a large rock I like to call the 'Surf Board' and reminisced. It seemed

like the cave trip turned into a wool gathering party. Subjects from fitting into tight passages at less girth to sliding around in the mud with a carbide lamp on your head were exchanged. From ice formations to the 1980's and 90's, the past was evoked and the shadows grew long, almost turning our excursion into an entertaining séance of days gone by. Some cavers ventured down in to the 'Bowl Room' while others waited for their return at the 'Surf Board.' Once again we re-gathered and the party moved on to the back of the cave where pictures were taken and the decision to head back was made. Some of the cavers crossed the 'Bottomless Pit' while others retraced their steps.

The climb down where we encountered the little salamander was crossed without difficulty-except for myself. I have climbed that particular wall many times but this time took a spill and a tumble due to poor footing and ended up at the bottom of the climb. My helmet, padded cave suit and backpack saved the day and I was told that the tumble looked awful. Unhurt I enquired if anyone got my slip on tape - another ancient term fitting for our jaunt. Unfortunately no one did so we headed back to the entrance room where we collected ourselves, dealt with rope, and commented on using carbide.

The popular consensus was that carbide caving has had its time. When using electric lamps there is no smell, no danger of burning something, and no need to constantly tend the lamp. It appeared that a carbide lamps upkeep during our trip took a great deal of time and I wondered how we caved as successfully as we did back in the day with them. One comment that stood out was that its way easier to switch on a light and go caving then to carry calcium carbide, water, and tip cleaning brushes for maintenance. Most of today's carbide cavers agreed that if they had a choice it would be LED all the way even though carbide lamps do give off heat, light, and a pleasant nostalgic ambiance.

As for myself, I am pleased we made this carbide trip short and enjoyable. I will always respect basic carbide caving although I have been truly spoiled by technology and those super bright and crazy LEDs. Caving just seems to get better with the years.





Take a good look at the picture. Bob hasn't used carbide for over 30 years. It will be another 30 years before he does it again (he's 70 now!) (by Tom Griffin)



Bob in the Uterus Passage (by Tom Griffin)



Doc, Tim, Craig (by Tom Griffin)



(by Tom Griffin)



Doc, Craig, Danny (by Tom Griffin)



(by Tom Griffin)



Vertical (by John DiCarlo)



(by John DiCarlo)



CANYON CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 6TH - DECEMBER 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 6 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	Nov 7	Nov 8	Nov 9  Meeting 7pm Nominations	Nov 10	Nov 11  VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12 Hamilton Cave see Cheryl Suitor Annual WVCC Banquet 7pm Sinkhole cleanup 10 am see Tom
Nov 13 Jones Quarry - Scout Trip Sinkhole cleanup, greenbrier Co 10 am see Tom	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16 SADIE HAWKIN'S DAY	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19 Sinkhole cleanup Rockingham Co, VA - see Janet
Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24 THANKSGIVING DAY	Nov 25 BLACK FRIDAY	Nov 26
Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3 Annual TSG Christmas celebration at Bedington Ruritan 6pm Jones Quarry - John's Hopkins
Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10
Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14  Meeting 7pm Elections	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Bob & JC relaxing at the 2016 Ely, NV NSS Convention (by BB)



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