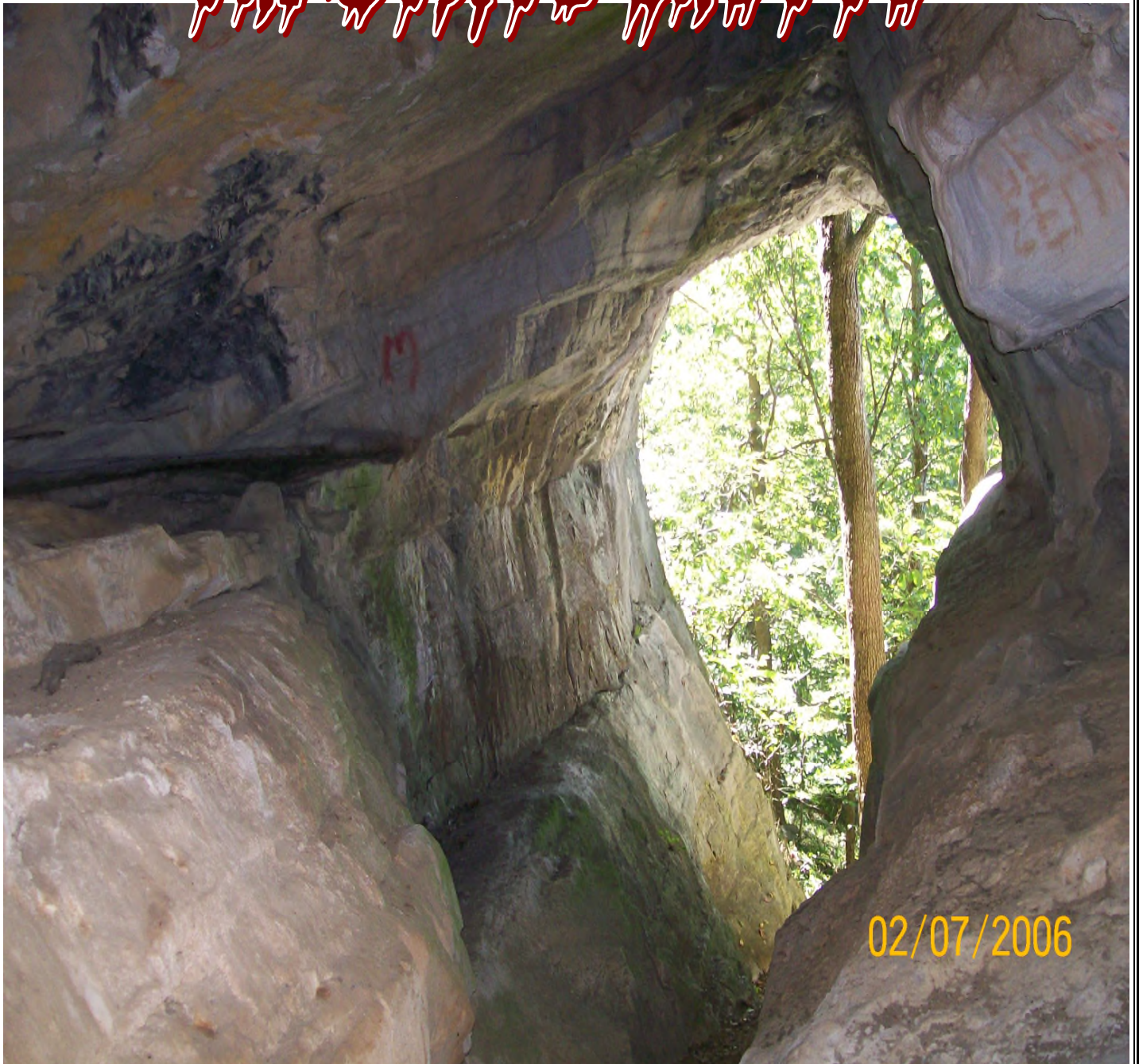


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



INDIAN CHURCH CAVE, BERKELEY CO, WV

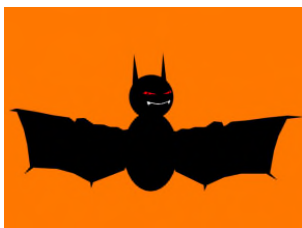
VOL. #31

ISS. #10

OCT

2016

#131



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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.

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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)  
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\*\*\* The cover this month was taken by Bob Bennett  
in Indian Church Cave, Berkeley Co, WV.

\*\*\*\* 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  
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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

Month of SEPTEMBER ----- **\$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/](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 OCTOBER

Barry Bates, Tina Blaik, Page Ferguson, Chrissy Hogbin

SEP 30-OCT 2 ---- Fall VAR - Poor Farm Park,  
Greenbrier Co, WV

OCT 6-9 --- Fall TAG Cave-In - Lookout Mt, GA

OCT 9 ---- Indian Church Cave & Turtle Soup Pit

OCT 10 ---- COLUMBUS DAY

OCT 12 --- TSG meeting - 7pm – Annual Grotto  
Auction

OCT 15 --- Bridge Day

OCT 15 ---- Adam Stephen dig – 9:30 am

OCT 29 --- Ft Royal Grotto 25 year anniversary -

OCT 31 --- All Hallows Eve (Halloween)

NOV 5 ---- Jones Quarry – Boy Scout trip – 10am –  
See Tom Griffin

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 24 --- THANKS GIVING DAY

NOV 25 --- BLACK FRIDAY

DEC 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections

DEC 17 ---- Annual TSG Christmas Celebration  
– 6pm

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.

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## REPORTS

TSG Meeting  
9/14/16

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

Correspondence: Bob gave a report on the WVCC banquet on Sat, Nov 12th at 6:00 pm in Greenbrier Co.

Old Business: Bob talked about the Grotto canopy poles. John suggested a couple of work sessions to see if they can be made more presentable. Bob will check on prices for new poles.

The Adam Stephen dig will be Sat, Oct 15th at 9:30 am.

We will be having vertical practice at James Rumsey on Wed, Sep 28th starting at 6:00 pm. Bring own gear if you have any, boots that you would be wearing in a cave, & also helmet and gloves.

Tom gave a report on the prices for the Grotto vertical gear and it was agreed to spend as much as \$1600 on 3 complete sets of gear including QAS, climbing, & rappelling gear:

- (1) A double bungee rope walker system with a double roller
- (2) A frog system
- (3) A Mitchell system

Eric checked out different sets while at OTR.

JC came back with a price for the laptop for Craig Stihler of the WVDNR of almost \$1700. He was told to go ahead & purchase it.

New Business: Bob talked about visiting the Snyder property while at VAR.  
Tom talked about land owner relations.

Wed Night Caving: Indian Church Cave & Lower Nestle Quarry Cave. Meet at the ACT station at Marlowe at 6pm.

There were 19 people attending the last Wed Night Caving Trip to JQ.

Trips: Some people made through trips in Still House Cave & Sinks of Gandy.

Bob mentioned that maybe we could enter a 'float in the Mt State Harvest Festival in Martinsburg on Sat, Oct 22nd. Bob will send the application in.  
Doc talked about possible going to Thorn Creek for a caving/camping weekend.

Cave Bucks: \$35

John adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Paulette Bennett  
Secretary  
Tri-State Grotto

Trip report Memorial Day Cave (MDC), Sept 9-11  
Participants: Edgard Bertaut, Terry McClanathan,  
Rick Royer

It's been barely two years since I compiled the 2015 ten year update report on hundred foot pits in West Virginia. In that short time span six more Germany Valley pits have already been added, increasing the number of verified hundred footers in the valley from 43 to 49. Perhaps, at this pace, I should consider doing an update every five years instead of ten. Four have been discovered in MDC on Rick Royer lead trips in a passage first accessed by the bolting skills of Scott Walquist around the end of 2015. HH can lay claim to the other two. Carl Amundson, Chris Coates, and Nikki Fox have exceeded the hundred foot mark in a bolt climb in the Tardis, and Mark Minton says another pit in the Ecstasy Dome complex is already approaching a hundred feet with plenty more to go. Other yet to be scaled domes in Kimble, HH, and MDC assure that the number of big pit/domes in Germany Valley is far from being exhausted.

Rick's posting of the three new hundred footers found and surveyed during the August GVKS weekend had me once again sweating my way through MDC's myriad obstacles on my way to

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camp. My short head start didn't gain me much as Rick and Edgard had pretty much caught up to me before I even got as far as the Puppet Buster. The three of us stayed close through Columbia Canyon until the clay wall, where I bid them adieu and arrived in camp about half an hour after they did. My time in was 3 and a half hours, which is pretty good for me. We were all in sleeping bags by 11 AM Friday evening.

After breakfast the three of us picked up a couple of short lengths of rope and some hardware and were on our way by 9 AM Sat. Our primary objective was to continue the survey at the top of Crumbly Canyon. We used one of the short ropes to rig the awkward eleven foot climbdown which leads over to the base of the Crumbly Canyon dome complex. Rick, Stevan Biggers, and Tommy Polson had improved the rigging leading up into this area since my last visit back in May. A rebelay had been installed at the rub spot near the top of the 48' climb, and the webbing leading down to the base of CCC (aka PAN (Pass a Knot) Pit) had been replaced with a standing line. It was also no longer necessary to climb the knotted rope in CCC to reach the top of Crumbly Canyon as the above mentioned trio had found another pit (PAN Dome Drop) back In August and rigged it knot free with a 200' rope, thus providing much easier access to the area.

Rick was first to climb the 153' PAN Dome Drop. He then removed the knotted rope from CCC while Edgard and I climbed the 153. The PAN Dome Drop is a beautifully sculptured, very nice, totally free pit. Once we were all assembled at the top, Rick and Edgard went ahead to continue the survey from the previous station at EMR20, while I bounced the nearby 148' deep SRA (Short Roped Again) Pit. I opted not to bounce the also nearby 106' pit after listening to Rick's narrative of how Stevan and he had to bash their way through the lower portion in order to reach bottom. Getting lacerated and slimed was high on my list of things to avoid so early into the trip.

By the time I caught up to Edgard and Rick they were already several stations into the new EMS survey. I picked up the foresight while Edgard continued on point and backsight. The canyon went on pretty much as before although we seemed to be progressing to an area with a more well-defined ceiling. At EMS8 a six inch diameter rock tube to

the right appeared to open up less than a body length in. A few stations beyond this Edgard encountered a more interesting area. Dripping water echoed from somewhere not far ahead. A passage to the right lead to a too low crawl turning north at EMS12 and heading back towards the lead at EMS8. I retreated to station 8 but Rick and I were unsuccessful at establishing a light connection. Meanwhile, finding the side leads at our present level all too tight, Edgard had worked his way lower to check on the possibility of bypassing any of these chokes. He found some short mappable passages but soon determined that nothing really went. While Rick went down to sketch in the area, I took a lunch break.

At our level a pit distoed at 56' (not surveyed) at EMS20 seemed to be the source of the echoing drips. By now it was around 4PM. We discussed digging at EMS12, which was easy fill with 4-6 inches of air space and appeared to open up somewhat after a couple of body lengths, or going back to the PAN pits to get a rope to drop the 56' pit. There was also the option of continuing straight ahead at the level we were on. The dig would have taken an hour or two yielding dubious results, a light connection with EMS8 being the most probable. Retrieving a rope to rig the new pit would also have taken some time. We opted to leave these leads for the next trip and continue to survey ahead.

We didn't get far before we encountered a second pit. This one was distoed at 47' (not surveyed) and, while the canyon continued on the other side, it will require a traverse line to continue in that direction. Edgard was able to slide backwards over a saddle to access a lead trending up and to the left of the pit. With his guidance Rick and I were able to do the same. This passage yielded a room with additional high leads. Edgard, assisted by Rick from below, was able to work his way up into a fissure at EMS25 heading southwest, but was stymied by a large wedged rock blocked from below and inaccessible from above without protection.

In the same room Edgard climbed the opposite wall and was able to enter a second room above. He was able to use webbing to belay Rick and me up. From here the only way on was upwards even further. Once again Edgard was able to scale the precarious looking breakdown to a perch some

fifteen feet off the floor. He belayed Rick up to join him. I did not like the look of this climb and was getting tired anyhow (after all, resting is hard work), so I stayed below. The duo spent about half an hour sketching and mapping the small leads in this upper level and then we all retreated back down Edgards first climb.

It was about 6:30PM when we began our return trip to camp, arriving without incident around 9:30. I woke just before 2AM Sunday, packed and began my slow exit, reaching daylight by 9AM. Rick and Edgard left camp around 8AM and were on the surface by 10:30. Crumbly Canyon continues beyond the undropped 47' pit and is still trending west of, but higher than the Southern Borehole. The EMS survey totaled 34 stations and netted 426' of new passages. Time underground was 38 hours.

Submitted by Terry McClanathan NSS 12103

### **Lewisburg, Snyder Property**

Back in June Bob Bennett, Terri Griffin, Tom Griffin, Mason Griffin and Jeff Hajenga went to Mrs. Snyder's house at her request to check out some sink holes. Jeff working for the DNR was contacted by her because there is a sink hole next to her house she felt was getting to close.

The 5 of us went out on this very warm day, we were shown 5 different sink holes on the property. We made entry in 4 of the holes. One being about 8 feet deep, barely large enough for one person. Another about a 3 foot by 4 foot opening that led 19 feet straight down. The hole immediately opened up to about 8 feet in circumference for that 19 feet. At the bottom it was like an upside down mushroom approximately 40 to 50 feet leading from the 19 foot dome to about 4 feet gradually leading to a pinch 25 to 30 feet away in all directions.



Bongo or Drum Cave (Jeff)

The lower ceiling was made up mostly of soda straws some stalagmites surrounding. We did have one snake that was rescued by Jeff. We did name this cave Drum Cave do to the water that was continually falling on 55 gallon drums that were lowered to collect water they could dip from.



(Jeff)





The drums (Jeff)

Another small cave was what we called the Spring Cave. This cave had a pipe with continuous water flow in the direction of Spring cave that would feed her garden several hundred feet away. At first glance we had about 15 feet of cave with a small ledge leading down, no indication that it was going far.

The main reason for visiting the property was to checkout a trash pit. What we noticed, there did not seem to be a lot of trash for a trash sink. I was able to use my laser down through the trash. I was able to get a depth of about 6 to 8 feet.

Before leaving that day, as everyone was getting dehydrated from the heat. We set fence posts to keep one of the small Scottish Highland calf from falling in the small pit.

After our visit about a week or 2 later White Sulphur Springs was flooded along with some areas around Lewisburg. As most of us met in Ely Nevada the question was asked about how Mrs. Snyder fared thought the floods. Jeff contacted her

later. It was setup that we visit her and the property during VAR. Apparently the sink next to her house had a 4 foot geyser flowing from the ground.

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 Bob Bennett, Terri Griffin, Tom Griffin, Jeff Hajenga, Jerry Bowen and John DiCarlo

We checked out the geyser sink. This time we could see down through the heavy stones a couple of feet, before all we could see was sand and gravel. Our next trip out we will hopefully get to see what's below.



The Geyser (Tom)

Our next stop was the trash pit. At our surprise that entrance really opened up. Again I used my laser the same place where I was only able to read 6 to 8 feet. Now I had 24 feet. Not knowing what else was below I set a rope so we could go down.

I headed down the first landing with a ceiling height of about 10 to 12 feet with a passage of about 30 feet or more. I saw 2 openings leading into the cave further. The one to the right had another 6 foot climb down with a huge surprise. There was another 25 foot dome pit that obviously led down. At The bottom there was a 10 inch very white calcite ribbon that went around the dome. I was able to use the laser to get more footage. From the dome pit a passage went another 30 feet then around a corner. Jeff made the drop and led to a stick and brush choke.



(Tom)

The second passage that led from the main room went into a canyon. Where you entered it was about 8 to 9 feet above the floor with as much or more above you. This led for about another 50 to 60 feet that was 2 small to turn the corner. Jeff again dropped the 8 to 9 foot drop to follow the canyon from the floor. He was able to make it a little farther then ran into another choke. When all done we went from 6 to 8 feet to 153 linear feet with a possibility of more.

Our third cave of the day was the Spring Cave. This cave is about 200 + or minus feet away from the Trash pit. We were not sure what we would find again due to the flooding. As Terri and I dropped down the small slope it all looked the same. The passage to the left I thought Jeff had gone before, was slightly larger. Terri was able to slip through the slot to find the passage kept going. I tried and had to move one rock. Then I was able to slide down the passage. Bob came in behind us.



(Tom)

As we made our way down to a silty level which was about 30 feet from the surface at this point, Terri moved a few rocks out of the way so I could slide down in the bottom where the cave went in 3 different directions. To the right it went for about 14 feet then stopped. 2 passages to the left that led through a small pond of water then led to 2 turns. These still need explored. Total linear feet of passage found here was 83 feet.



Snyder Spring (Tom)

If all goes well our next trip out will be during the WVCC banquet.



Snyder Spring (Tom)





Bob watching Jeff & Tom play under Mrs. Snyder's house (Tom)



Robert the Bruce "Broosky" (Tom)



Mrs. Snyder's Indian relics (Tom)



Jeff squeezing down into Snyder 8' pit (BB)



Bongo or Drum Pit (Jeff)





Jeff inside Snyder 8' Pit (BB)



Sink where 4' high geyser bubbled up during flood on Snyder property (Tom)



Jeff & Tom stringing fence around 8' Pit (BB)



Salamander in Drum (Bongo) Pit (Jeff)



Snyder Spring Cave (Pic taken by Terri)



Tom using Disto in Drum (Bongo) Pit (Jeff)





# CANYON CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 9TH - NOVEMBER 19TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Oct 9</b> Indian Church Cave & Turtle Soup Pit  Fall TAG Cave-In Lookout Mt, GA	<b>Oct 10</b> COLUMBUS DAY	<b>Oct 11</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>  Meeting 7pm Annual Auction	<b>Oct 13</b>	<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Oct 15</b> Adam Stephen dig 930am  Bridge Day
<i>Oct 16</i>	<i>Oct 17</i>	<i>Oct 18</i>	<i>Oct 19</i>	<i>Oct 20</i>	<i>Oct 21</i>	<i>Oct 22</i>
<i>Oct 23</i>	<i>Oct 24</i>	<i>Oct 25</i>	<i>Oct 26</i>	<i>Oct 27</i>	<i>Oct 28</i>	<b>Oct 29</b> FRG 25th Anniversary see Janet Tinkham
<i>Oct 30</i>	<b>Oct 31</b>  ALL HALLOW'S EVE	<i>Nov 1</i>	<i>Nov 2</i>	<i>Nov 3</i>	<i>Nov 4</i>	<b>Nov 5</b> Jones Quarry scout trip see Tom
<b>Nov 6</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	<i>Nov 7</i>	<i>Nov 8</i>	<b>Nov 9</b>  Meeting 7pm Nominations	<i>Nov 10</i>	<b>Nov 11</b>  VETERAN'S DAY	<b>Nov 12</b> Hamilton Cave see Cheryl Suitor  Annual WVCC Banquet 7pm  Snyder property 10 am see Tom
<b>Nov 13</b> Snyder property 10 am see Tom	<i>Nov 14</i>	<i>Nov 15</i>	<b>Nov 16</b> SADIE HAWKIN'S DAY	<i>Nov 17</i>	<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>Nov 19</i>



# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Carl demonstrating change-over (BB)



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**TO:**



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