

DEAD DOG DISPATCH
TRI-STATE GROTTO

WANTED

FOR MISCHIEVOUS ACTIVITY

REWARD

FOR CAPTURE



CAVE VALLEY CAVE, WHITE PINE CO, NV

VOL. #31

ISS. #9

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2016

#121



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
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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 was taken by the Sheriff at the Great Platt River Road Archway, Kearney, NE. That is what happens when you are away from home & you get too mischievous!

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Youth Chair ----

**** 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!



TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (Non-NSS)
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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#9

SEP

2016

#122

CAVING EVENTS

2016

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 SEPTEMBER

Dylan Alvarez, Richelle Barber, Twila Bracken,
David culver, Ann Muldoon, Tyler Ridgeway,
Nathan Roser, Cheryl Suitor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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 10 ---- COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 12 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
OCT 15 --- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- All Hallows Eve (Halloween)
NOV 5 ---- Jones Quarry – Boy Scout trip
NOV 6 ---- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
NOV 9 ---- TSG meeting - 7pm
NOV 11 --- Veteran's Day
NOV 12 ---- Annual WVCC Banquet –
Lewisburg, WV – 7pm
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 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 AUGUST ----- \$53.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6324.50

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#9

SEP

2016

#123

REPORTS

TSG Meeting
8/10/16

John called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Jerry gave the treasurer's report.

Jerry talked about the volunteer help & support that he gave for flood victims in Greenbrier Co.

Old Business: Picnic Aug 20th. The Grotto will supply charcoal, eating utensils, condiments, & sodas.

Wed Night Caving: Doc talked about a trip that he went on. A trip to JQ was set up. Remember that trips to JQ have to be set up 2 weeks in advance. Meet at Spring Mill McD's at 6pm.

New Business: Bob suggested about possibly purchasing new poles for the Grotto 18 x 30 canopy since they are cheaper galv and are rusting very badly.

The Grotto also talked about purchasing different vertical gear for teaching ascending & rappelling. But the gear would not be loaned or used by individuals. After learning the individuals would be expected to purchase their own gear.

Tom suggested that a committee to be set up to help Tom decide which gear to purchase: Doc, Scott, & Bob volunteered. Eric will check on a place to practice.

John checked with Keith about an Adam Stephen dig. Keith told him possibly a Sat in Oct or Nov. He said that he would get back to John.

We talked about possibly restarting the Apollo theater dig this winter.

Tom talked about a very large rock in the Adam Stephen pit that is in the way. Bob said that he will talk to David Knox about the situation.

Trips: Bob & Tom talked about the NSS Convention in Ely, NV. Bob & Paulette did the Paw Paw tunnel on out last stop before arriving home.

JQ trip on Wed, Aug 24. Meet at McD's at Spring Mills at 6pm.

Cave Bucks: July was \$35.00 and August was \$53.00. They both were sent to SCCI.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Bennett, Secretary

Sharps Cave – (Trip from OTR) – 9/3/16

By: Mike Ward (NSS #54210)



A trip to OTR is never complete until you do a cave trip. This year we decided to go to Sharps Cave. It had been about five years since I last went to Sharps with Earl and Cheryl Suitor. That trip ended short when we had some adventure in the cave and we exit earlier than hoped due to an injury. I was intent on that not happening again this time.

I was fortunate to cave with some folks that I hadn't caved with in a long time. My sister-in-law, two nieces, nephew and another friend joined my usual caving group for this trip. All totaled there were nine of us ready to drop ourselves into the small crevice and start exploring. Having only been to Sharps once, much of the cave was still pretty new to me so we took it pretty slow.

After sliding down the small entrance and the slope to get into the cave we made our way to Halloween Hall. I had forgotten just how large that room was. Tyler and Matt did a little exploring off to the side passage in the cave and then we made our way further down the passage.

We made our way over and around several of the rock falls in the passage and to the room with all the mud

sculptures. Several of us spent time to looking at all the hard work done by many of the past cavers while others started down toward the water passage and the waterfall.



Tyler and Matt went first and headed downstream (they didn't realize they were headed the wrong way to see the falls). They took this passage quite a way before turning around and joining the rest of us at the junction that lead to the waterfall. There was less water at the fall this time than when I was last in this cave, but this is still one of my favorite underground waterfalls.



Knowing that we had to be back at OTR by a certain time (it was Susan's night to fix dinner) we headed back toward the entrance. We didn't get to see as much as we hoped this time, but still got to spend 3½ hours underground, so it was still a very good day. We decided that we need to set up another trip, one that we can spend much more time in the cave and venture to the areas that I still haven't seen yet (areas like the Brain Room).

A little wet, a little muddy, and a little tired we made our way out and headed back to OTR to join the rest of our fellow cavers for a few drinks and some good company.



Front – Susan Nettles, Angie Ward, Missy Ward
Middle – Mike Ward, Amber Stokes
Back – Matt Ward, Tyler Ward, Kevin Haney, Mike Manner

Unfortunately my camera wasn't working too well this day so I didn't get many pictures, but the memories are still fresh in my head and that will have to do until the next trip. Special thank you to Tri-State Grotto for the use of some grotto helmets for this trip.

Expect the Unexpected

Early morning August 9th Edgar and I woke up at 5am to head to TAG. Ryan told us to meet him at one of the Walmarts in the area. As we pull into the lot we see that Ryan is driving out, once we reach his car he tells us that he forgot his flashbulbs at home. He had to go back and get them because they are crucial to his photography. Ed and I talked it over and we decided to get a head start down. The trip down was about as exciting as a 9 hour drive can be. Once we reached Tennessee we were met with sign after sign that displayed the phrase "Expect the Unexpected." Little did we know that would become the theme of our trip.

Once everyone got down to TAG we all met up at a cave called Cedar Ridge Crystal, it was a cave I went to on my last TAG trip. It was highly decorated but very short. The roof of the main room is covered in soda straws, while the back of the main room has columns with gypsum spikes growing off them. The only difference I noticed was that the water level in the back of the cave was significantly lower than the last time I was there.

This allowed me to access another 100 feet of passage I had not been in. The passage closes off with flowstone blocking the way. We spent about 2 hours in the cave, including taking pictures. Once we exited we headed to camp for the night.

We woke up again very early for the day ahead of us. After tearing down camp we went headed to Stephens Gap Cave. There was noticeably less water in the cave, making the waterfalls not near as overwhelming as they were in the spring. Once Ryan got to the bottom of the pit he told me that there was a snake down there. I clipped in to the rope was able to identify the snake as non-venomous, which from there Ryan proceeded to rescue the snake by putting it into his pack and exiting the cave. We had been at the cave a few hours now, just rappelling the drop and walking out. Just as we were about to head out, sunbeams started to reach the pedestal. Ryan was able to get set up just in time to snap a few pictures before they disappeared for the day.

The next stop on the trip was Neversink Pit. I started the hike at the back of the group and by the time I got to the top it was just myself and Ryan. We were followed shortly by two others on the trip, Deirdre and Amy, however there was no Ed. After about 20 minutes Ryan and I headed back down the mountain, assuming the Ed must just be taking a long break, it was a hot day and the hike is straight up the mountain.

Once we got about halfway down we started calling his name, only to hear a response way off the trail. He had gotten turned around at a false trail and found himself way off the path. This was the very beginning of a rough trip for him. We rigged the ropes and bounced the pit. Neversink was amazingly beautiful with all the ferns growing around the lip and on the tiers of limestone on the way down. Once it got close to 7:00pm Ed and I geared up for a dusk picture that Ryan wanted and once that was done we hiked out. On our hike down someone pointed out that there was two red cell storms headed our way. None of us wanted to be outside for that, so we all slept in our cars....at first.

You see, Alabama in the late summer is very hot. Even in hammock you wake up coated in sweat, and it is exponentially more unbearable in a hot metal car. Edgar eventually moved out into his hammock, and Deirdre out into her tent. Ryan rolled down the windows of his car and got eaten alive by bugs. I had my windows rolled up and roasted the whole night, getting very little sleep. We woke up the next morning to the good news – it never stormed.

On Thursday we headed to our new campsite at Cathedral Caverns State Park. After setting up we headed to Bluff River Cave. The cave was pretty easy to find. The entrance is in an obvious hole in a limestone wall. As soon as you get through the entrance it opens up into a very large room and it stays that way for most of the trip. The cave is only about a mile long and is entirely walking passage. Along the way there is one plunge pool, which is navigated correctly you get wet up to only your ankles. As a joke I just ran right through the pool and ended up swimming to the other side. We reached the back of the cave after hiking through a mile of mostly 30 foot wide, 40 foot tall passage way. On the way back Ryan shot pictures. We decided we should get a picture of someone in the plunge pool and my hand was the first hand up. Everyone thought I was crazy for doing it, but if I had an opportunity to be cold during an August in Alabama I was going to take it. We exited the cave after about four hours underground.

For Friday we had two caves planned, Pretty Well and Limrock Blowing Cave. After hiking all the way to Pretty Well, which is halfway up a steep mountain, we discovered that there were several rub points. There was a rub point almost every 30 feet. The group called off the cave due to safety concerns and we headed to Limrock Blowing, which was very much like Bluff River. It had very wide and tall passages, and was almost all walking. The most notable part of this cave was that I saw my first translucent cave creatures. I saw a small fish and 2 crayfish. I was able to see their veins and nervous systems. This was another short trip and we were out in less than 4 hours.

The next day was Valhalla so we all went to bed early in order to get some good sleep. At about two

in the morning I was woken up by my hammock shaking. Once I wake up I look to my side and see that there are paws resting on my hammock. I was quite alarmed, and half asleep, but once I got my head in order I saw that it was a puppy. After playing with it for a bit everyone went back to bed and woke up ready for Valhalla. Except Edgar. He woke up and his arm was seriously swollen. You couldn't even tell he had an elbow. He also had no feeling in the swollen area, so we got him in town to the ER. After spending 2 hours in the ER Edgar walks out. The doctors told him "We have never seen this before and we have no clue what this is, here is a prescription for some antibiotics." After picking up his meds we headed to Valhalla (a 227 foot pit) and he bounced the pit with an arm he had no feeling in.

Sunday was dedicated entirely to doing Tumbling Rock Cave, which was a cave that had been on my list for some time now. Tumbling Rock starts as stoop walking/ walking cave for the first mile. The borehole passage gets mazy after a while. Once you navigate all the borehole, you get to "The Hall of Mysteries" which is a very large breakdown room. From there you have to go through a section of the cave called "The Suicide Crawl." It is a nasty section of crawling that is about a few hundred feet long. You are actually crawling over and under breakdown, hence the name.

Once we made it out of that we had more stoop/ walking passage to cover. From there you enter the Hall of the Gods, which is large room after large room of breakdown. At the very end of the Hall is Mt. Olympus. Mt. Olympus is a massive breakdown mountain that is no easy feat to climb up due to its steepness. This is where Edgar would meet the final struggle of this TAG Trip. When he was passing the hardest part of the incline, he slipped and slid down 35 feet of breakdown before he stopped. His knees bear the reminders of his slip-up (down). At the very top of Mt. Olympus is the Pillar of Fire, which is a flowstone coated stalagmite with bright iron deposits. We took pictures of it and then shot pictures on our way out.

On the way out we stopped at the "Topless Dome" which is 400 feet tall. To get to the pit you actually

have to hop up into the ceiling of one of the walking passages you pass on the way in. After spending 8 hours underground we exited to a night sky.

The final day was set aside for Paul's Cave, which is a 298 foot pit. Sadly, due to a 2 hour struggle to find the entrance, followed by some concerns about how tight the actual passage to the pit is, the day was called off. Edgar and I headed back to Morgantown while Ryan and the other two stuck around and did two more pits. Edgar and I got home at 2am and gladly dove into bed when we got to the apartment.

Keep Kaving

-Shawn

OTR & TSG Picnic Photos



Our group at Still House (1st 2 pics by Jeff H)



Trish & her sister Donna (OTR & cave Virgin!)

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#31

I.#9

SEP

2016

#127



OTR (Twila B)



TSG Picnic (Bob B)



Only had 1 glass of wine each day at OTR!



TSG Picnic (John D)



One of only 4 entries in the Doo Dah Parade & 2 were single people! One of the poorest parades ever! (Art H Jr)



CAVEMAN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 11TH - OCTOBER 22ND



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 11 PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14  Meeting 7pm	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17
Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22	Sep 23 Fall MAR Woodward Cave, PA	Sep 24 Fall MAR Woodward Cave, PA
Sep 25 Fall MAR Woodward Cave, PA	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30 Fall VAR, Poor Farm Campground Greenbrier Co, WV	Oct 1 Fall VAR, Poor Farm Campground Greenbrier Co, WV
Oct 2 Fall VAR, Poor Farm Campground Greenbrier Co, WV	Oct 3	Oct 4	Oct 5	Oct 6 Fall TAG Cave-In Lookout Mt, GA	Oct 7 Fall TAG Cave-In Lookout Mt, GA	Oct 8 Fall TAG Cave-In Lookout Mt, GA
Oct 9 Fall TAG Cave-In Lookout Mt, GA	Oct 10 COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14	Oct 15 Bridge Day
Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22

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Norman Cave (Cheryl S)



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#130