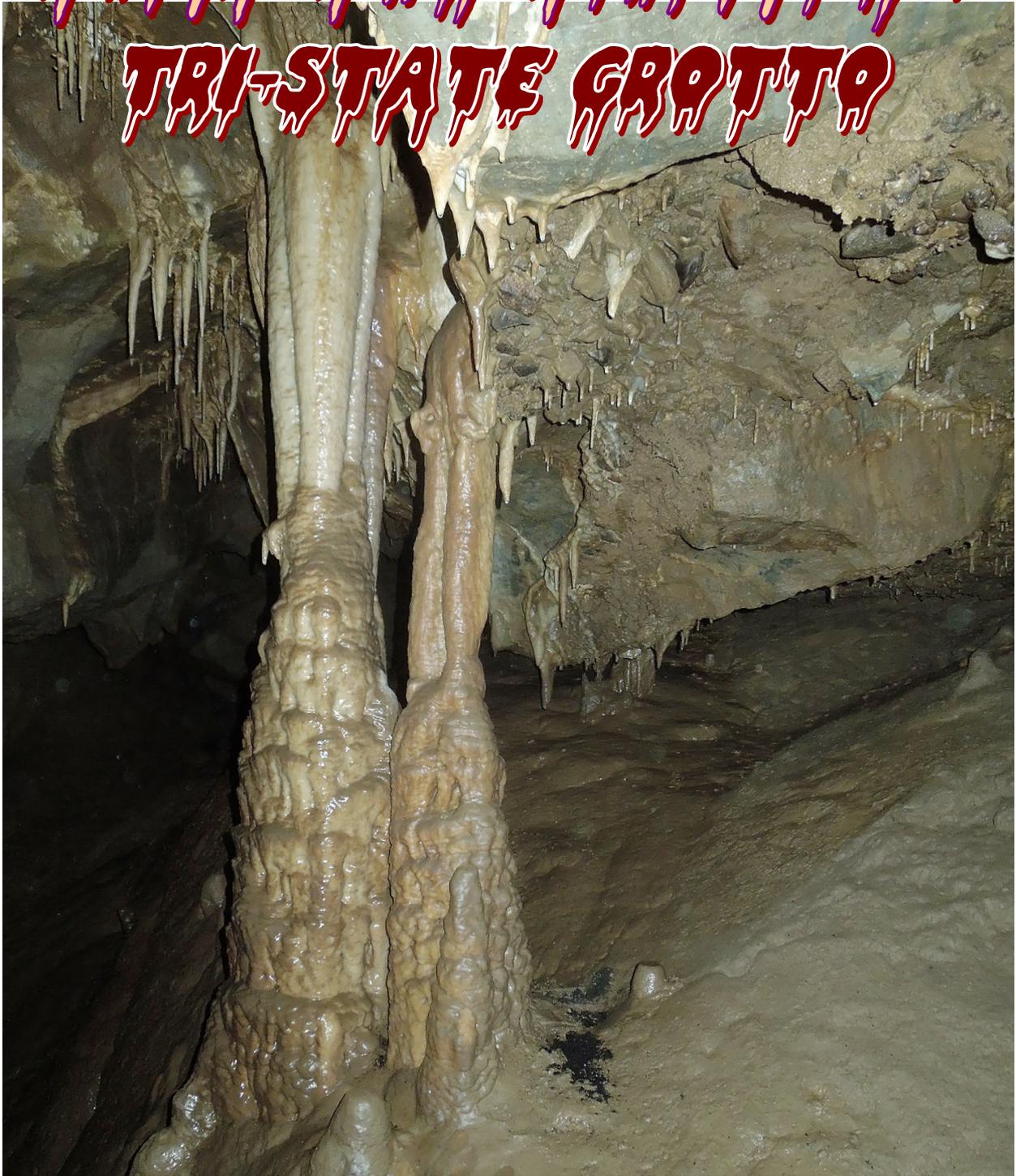


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



WINDERS CAVE, WASHINGTON CO, MD

VOL. #32

ISS. #8

AUG

2017

#97

CAVING EVENTS

DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE

2017

***** 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 JULY ----- \$20.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6643.50

**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 2017 ----- <http://nss2017.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/>
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/
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

AUG 4-6 --- Indiana Cave Capers – Carydon, IN
AUG 5 --- Annual TSG Picnic – Blue Ridge
Acres, Harpers Ferry, WV – 12 noon-6pm
AUG 7 --- Ghosts of Shepherdstown on
Destination America – 10PM – Filmed
in the Adam Stephen house
AUG 9 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm
AUG 12 --- Glade Cave – Scout trip – Tentative
AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day
AUG 16 --- Winders Cave – see Terry
McClanathan
AUG 21 --- Solar Eclipse
AUG 26 --- Boy Scout Powder Horn – Camp Rock
Enon – see Tom or Bob about helping
AUG 27 --- Whittings Neck Cave – 9:30 am – see
Bob for details
AUG 31 --- SEP 4 – OTR
SEP 2 ---- Doo Dah Parade – 10 am
SEP 2 ---- Polyester Power Hour Trip – 1pm
SEP 4 ----- LABOR DAY
SEP 11 ----- PATRIOT DAY
SEP 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
SEP 22 ---- AUTUMN EQUINOX
SEP 22-24 --- Fall VAR – Mountain Institute,
Spruce Knob, WV
OCT 5-8 --- TAG Fall Cave-In - AL
OCT 9 --- Columbus Day
OCT 11 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Auction
Oct 21 ---- Bridge Day
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE
(HALLOWEEN)
NOV 5 --- Daylight Saving Time Ends
NOV 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Nominations
NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 16 ---- Sadie Hawken's Day
NOV 23 --- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 24 --- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections
DEC 16 --- TSG Christmas celebration –
Bedington Ruritan – 6pm – 11:30 pm
DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 24 --- CHRISTMAS EVE

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF AUGUST

Matthew Amundson, Jerry Bowen, John DiCarlo,
Trevor Fitz, Buddy Hine, Julie Garvin, David Knox,
Shannon Miranda

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

TSG Meeting
7/12/17

Attendance: 18

John brought the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Correspondence: None
2 new people tonight (previous members)

Old Business: Doc said poles were in Tim's garage.
Give Michael Keesecker the dimensions & how
many poles.

Bob worked on the TSG Library but didn't get too
far.

The next Adam Stephen dig is this coming Sat, Jul
15th at 930 am.

The TSG picnic is Sat, Aug 5th and the TSG
Christmas party is Sat, Dec 16th from 6pm until
11pm.

Doc talked about the TSG helmets. A few need new
headlamps. It was suggested that we charge a rental
fee of \$1 each for the use of the helmets. This
would help defray the cost of repairs when needed.
Decided there would be no charge when using
them.

New Business: John talked about Baker Quarry
cave. Brent would love to have help repairing &
painting the house on the Baker property.
It was suggested that we offer to clean up George
Washington Cave. The cave is closed.

Trips: The monthly vertical sessions will be the 1st
Thursday after each meeting (unless there is a Wed
Evening Cave trip that night). The vertical sessions
are from 6p until about 945pm.

John talked about the trips to Big Column &
Chapman Caves. There were 3 deer skulls in
Chapman.

There will be a Powder Horn held at Camp Rock
Enon for the scout leaders. We were asked to show
our caving equipment and have a slide show. We
can use help.

Labor Day weekend is OTR! We have been asked
to reintroduce the Polyester Power Hour! The theme
for OTR this year is Christmas!

The Fall VAR is the weekend of Sep 22nd-24th at
the Mountain Institute near Spruce Knob.

There is a trip to Boyles Cave on Wed, Jul 26th at
6pm.

Terry has a trip to Winders Cave set for Wed, Aug
16th at 6pm.

Cave Bucks: \$20.00

The meeting was adjourned at 910pm

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

Winders Cave

I started caving in 1968 as a freshman at
Frostburg State Teachers College (now Frostburg
State University). Armed with a copy of William E.
Davies Caves of Maryland (1950) and later Caves
of West Virginia (also by Davies), we spent the next
couple of years exploring caves in Garrett and
Allegany counties in western Maryland, and soon
ended up in cave-rich Pendleton County, W. Va.
With so many nice caves to visit there, it was easy
to ignore local caves. A new publication on

Maryland caves by Richard Franz and Dennis Slifer came out in 1971 with maps and photos of quite a few caves in Washington County, Md. (my residence) which were not in Davies 1950 publication. Some of these looked pretty decent.

We decided it might be fun to take a weekend visiting as many caves in Washington County as possible. This was in the spring of 1972 and we did go to about a dozen local caves, many of which are closed today. One cave which especially caught our attention because a photo of a well decorated room appears in the Franz/Slifer report was Winders Cave. At the time (1972) we did not actually speak with the landowner, but while at nearby Jugtown Cave we were informed by locals that the cave was closed and had been sealed shut by the farmer who owned it. In fact, it had been sealed repeatedly but breached each time before being re-sealed again. On one such occasion some local teenagers who had snuck in were even sealed in the cave by mistake. There was no question that Winders cave was definitely off limits.

Thirty-five years went by and Winders cave remained closed. About ten years ago a hodgepodge of circumstances brought Winders Cave back into my life. These circumstances included the purchase of a small farm in 1980, Rhode Island Red laying hens, a fox, and an overly intelligent monster racoon with a voracious appetite. There was lots of work on the farm and I found that I needed a hearty breakfast. I started raising Rhode Island Reds and became very fond of farm fresh large brown eggs (two every morning for breakfast over the next 37 years). All went well for over twenty-five years until the fox and the high I. Q. racoon (this guy was adept at opening latched barn doors) showed up. I tried lots of strategies in an effort to save my hens, but the fox and the racoon always seemed to be one step ahead of me, and soon it was good bye chickens. However, by now I was completely addicted to my large brown egg breakfast regimen, and I quickly found out that store-bought eggs just didn't cut it.

A friend told me about a farmer who sold large brown eggs, and so in light of all the above-mentioned difficulties I had been experiencing at the claws and teeth of nature's marauders, my poultry raising days ended. My friend got me a phone number and I called for directions. The farm

was owned by Kathleen Winders and as it turned out I didn't live very far away. The location was about right and I started to wonder if this could be the property owner of Winders Cave. Kathleen was a wonderful person of about 80 years of age. Every two weeks I would go down to get my eggs, which were always available and waiting for me in the fridge. We knew many of the same people because my mother's side of the family were mostly farmers who lived in the Boonsboro/Smithsburg area.

My egg visits were always accompanied by a half hour conversation. We talked about many things. Eventually I told her that I was a caver and she volunteered that there was a cave on her property. She told me that back in 1970 her husband had closed the cave for good because trespassers were vandalizing the cave and removing the formations. She also verified the story that on one occasion it had been sealed while people were inside. When I mentioned the possibility of opening the cave, Kathleen quickly steered the conversation in another direction. I decided that this was a topic I could not push too aggressively. She listened attentively to some of my cave stories and seemed interested, so every once in a while I would broach the subject of Winders Cave, but pretty much with the same "let's not go there" vibes.

The Winders farm is extensive, occupying all the land between Mapleville Road (State route 66) and Crystal Falls Drive which parallels the western base of South Mountain. Mrs. Winders still lives in the old farmhouse and her two sons who work the farm, though they both have other jobs, live in newer homes elsewhere on the property. About a year and a half ago during one of our evening chats over eggs, Kathleen mentioned that some holes had recently opened up along the southern property line near her son Randy's home, and he was curious about them. I knew that Winders Cave was on Randy's side of the farm, so this news was intriguing, and I offered to take a look at the holes sometime.

A while later Randy did take me to see these holes, which turned out to be a series of shallow sinks in alluvium. While discussing the relationship between sinkholes and caves Randy offered to show me the entrances to the two caves on the property. The first they refer to as "The Gold Mine" which is a small obvious cave very near Randy's house. At

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this time I had no helmet or light so I did not enter. The '71 Caves of Maryland describes this as a single passage about sixty feet in length. Jerry Bowen and I later surveyed it at 47 feet long. The main Winders Cave was in a rock and dirt filled sink near the northern boundary of the farm. Randy told me that his niece and her boyfriend had tried to open the cave about a year earlier as evidenced by discarded rocks strewn about the edge of the sink. This admission gave me hope, so I pointedly asked him how he felt about unsealing the cave. He seemed to think this might be a good idea and even offered that his own two teenage children had expressed some interest in seeing the cave. Despite this being the first positive feedback I'd had regarding accessing Winders, Randy was adamant that the farm was still owned by his mother (Kathleen) and nothing could be done without her approval.

years ago. I told them that the cave would be gated and locked immediately. With these assurances from me, Kathleen reluctantly consented.



It had been over eight years since the thought had fleetingly entered my head, and now I finally had landowner permission to open Winders Cave. Now all that remained was implementation of my plan. Two Pennsylvania friends, Gordy Ley and Ryan Boyce, both very experienced at opening caves, willingly offered their assistance. I had promised the Winders that we would complete the project in a timely fashion, thinking we could probably open the cave, re-survey it, and gate it within the space of about a month. Our weekends were tied up, so as none of us lived very far away, we opted for working weeknight evenings.

During my next egg visit I cautiously approached Mrs. Winders about her son's "desire" to have the cave opened. Kathleen and I had become friends over the years and I could tell she was not really enthusiastic about the idea, but neither did she want to tell me "no". I also thought it would be wise to bring Randy's brother Mark into the plan. All three expressed reservations about what would happen once the cave was opened, none obviously wanting a repeat of the events from 45

Our first effort took place in early May and resulted in the removal of a lot of rocks and soil but no entry. Mrs. Winder's husband had done a very thorough job of sealing the entrance. Many of the rocks could not be budged with digging iron or prybar. Gordy had to apply chemical persuasion to the larger ones before they could be extracted. About a week later we were back, and after another few hours labor I successfully squeezed past a restriction indicated on the Slifer/Franz map. This I was better able to enlarge

from the inside until it took on more comfortable dimensions. Once past the “restriction” Gordy and I soon gained access to the “big room”, which we toured that same evening, while Ryan worked on removing additional loose rocks from around the entrance.

The following week on the evening of May 18th Corey Hackley and I initiated the re-survey of the cave. Before going to the cave, that same evening we also retrieved a section of 30-inch diameter culvert which Corey had stored at his parent’s home for use in constructing the gate. Ryan and I had planned to survey the upper portions of the cave, consisting mostly of the entrance climbdowns and main formation room, at a later date, so on this night Corey and I tackled the lower level.

This level is accessed by a crawl near the midpoint along the bottom of the main room. This leads to a small room with two shallow pits, one dead bottom and the other continuing down to the lower level. Corey also followed a steeply sloping narrow passage upwards which connected back into the main room at a higher level shelf. The lower of the two pits dropped into a small passage which continued to a tight spot at the lowest point in the cave which the completed survey showed to be 53 feet deep. Beyond this the crawl opened up into a small stand-up room before reaching an eight-foot climb-up. This climb leads up into two adjoining breakdown rooms. While not especially voluminous as large rooms go, they both had ceiling heights in excess of ten feet (remember, this is Maryland). Corey spent a while probing ceiling leads in these rooms but no breakthrough resulted. Our survey netted about 160 feet for the lower level.

Gordy, Ryan, and I were unable to return to the cave until the evening of June 1st. At this time Gordy worked on setting rebar and making forms for pouring concrete for the culvert, while Ryan and I finished mapping the upper portions of the cave. We decided to position the culvert vertically in the sink we had excavated, so Gordy also installed a short section of ladder inside the culvert to make getting in and out easier.

Ryan and I first surveyed from the entrance down into the main room, a total drop of 25 feet in three stages (not counting the entrance culvert). Despite the vandalism of 45+ years ago, the main room is still well decorated and most of the speleothems are in fairly good condition. Columns, straws, draperies, flowstones, stalactites and stalagmites abound. There are even a couple of small pockets of helectites. The room is about a hundred feet long and averages around twenty feet wide, with ceiling heights varying from head high to fifteen feet. Several sections of the ceiling are also covered in breccia (as shown on the original Slifer/Franz map). The room



terminates in cemented breakdown with a ceiling festooned with dense pendants. Ryan and I added about another 160 feet to Corey's and my earlier



work, bringing the total mapped passages in Winders to 321 feet.



By the time Ryan and I finished surveying, Gordy had the forms ready. We positioned the culvert and poured concrete around to secure it in place. I'd only brought six bags of mix and it was determined that eight more would be required to encase the culvert and complete the task of anchoring the grate Gordy had donated for the actual gate. A week later Gordy and I finished off the gate and installed the lock.

So after about a month, during which time five trips were made to the cave, the Winders Cave project was complete. A short while later I took Jerry and Mary Bowen back on a photo trip. Jerry got some nice pictures of the formations in the main room. While not very large, Winders is one of the more interesting and

pretty caves in Washington County. I plan to have two more trips, one for Tri-state and one for Gordy and Ryan's Franklin County Grotto in the near future. However, Winders Cave should be considered closed. The owners simply do not wish to be bothered, and are still leery from the bad experiences of decades past. If anyone other than Tri-state or Franklin County members, who will have the opportunity to visit the cave soon, wish to see the cave, it would be best to contact me and I will see if some arrangements can be made.

Terry McClanathan NSS 12103

All photos were taken by
Jerry Bowen

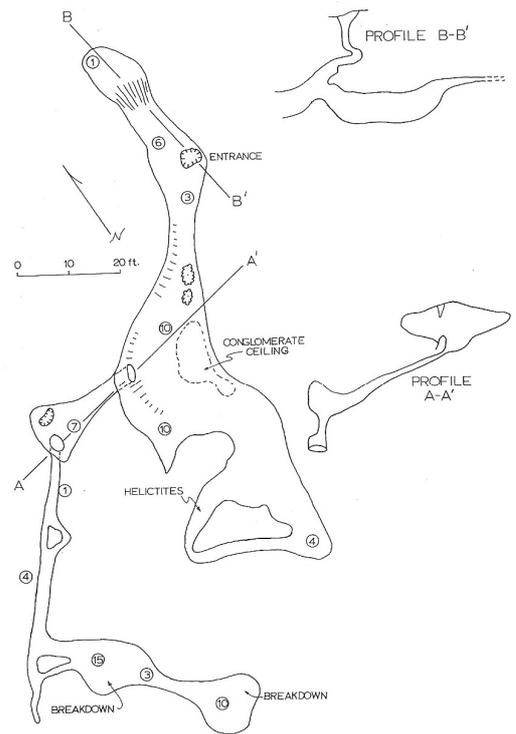
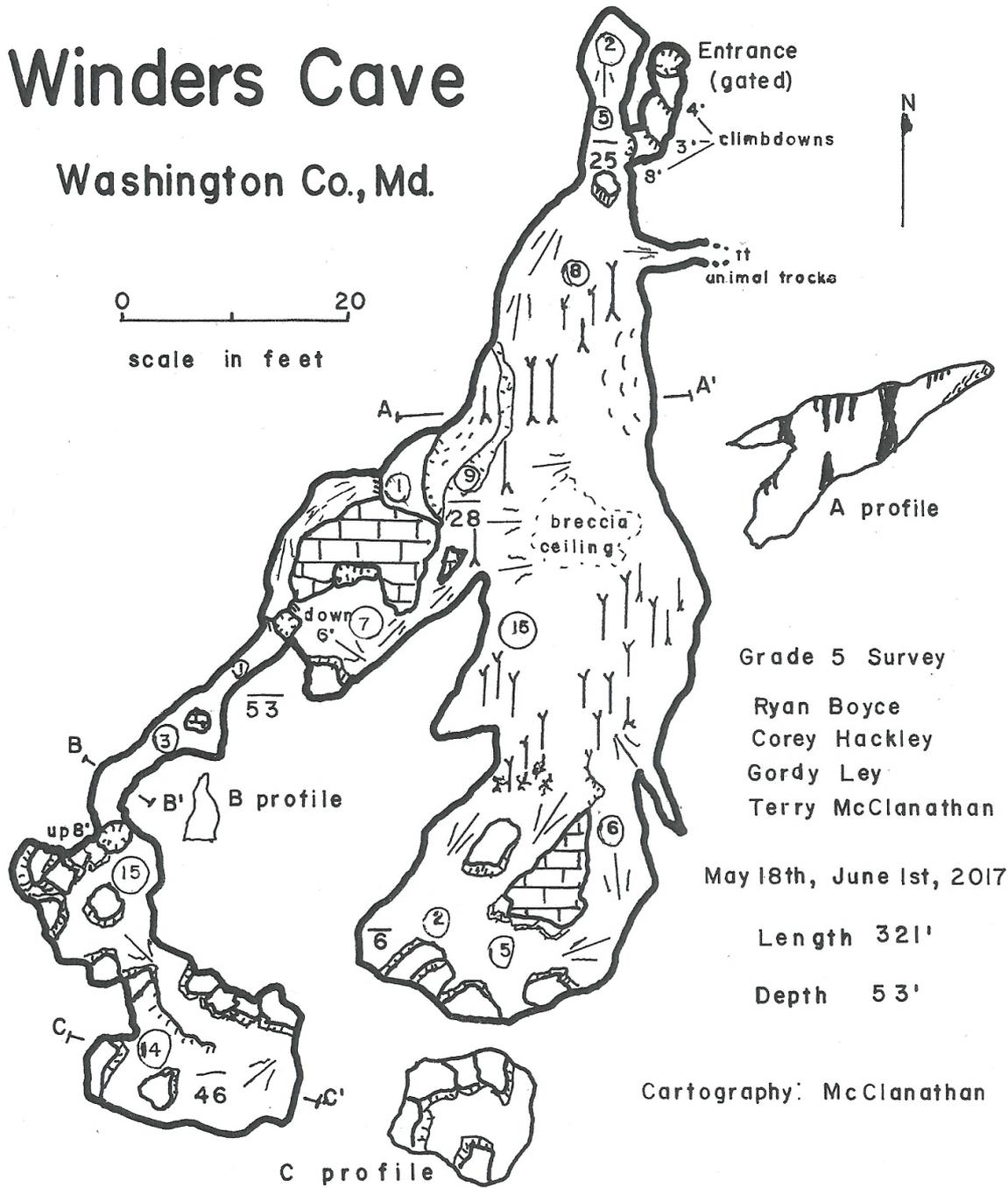


Figure 93. Winders Cave, Washington County. Surveyed by D. Slifer and M. Haymond, October 28, 1967.

Winders Cave

Washington Co., Md.



If you noticed the map from *Caves of MD* by Slifer/Gulden is shown. See if you can tell how much more detail is shown in the more modern map compared to the maps of the 60's.



CAVIN CALENDAR

JULY 30TH - SEPTEMBER 9TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 30	Jul 31	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5 TSG Picnic - Blue Ridge Acres riverfront - 12 noon
Aug 6	Aug 7 Ghosts of Shepherdstown - 10pm - Adam Stephen	Aug 8	Aug 9  Meeting 7pm	Aug 10	Aug 11	Aug 12 Glade Cave - Scout trip - Tentative - see Tom or Bob
Aug 13 Left Handers Day	Aug 14	Aug 15	Aug 16 Winders Cave - see Terry M - Wed Night Caving 6pm	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19
Aug 20	Aug 21 Solar Eclipse	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26 Boy Scout Powder Horn - Camp Rock Enon - see Tom or Bob 9am
Aug 27 Whittings Neck Cave - see Bob 930am	Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31 QTR	Sep 1 QTR	Sep 2 QTR Doo Dah Parade 10am Polyester Power Hour 1pm
Sep 3 QTR	Sep 4 QTR LABOR DAY	Sep 5	Sep 6	Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 9

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RADIO FLYER WAGON (Photo by BB)



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