

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**CLINT HOGGBIN CLIMBING IN ELKHORN MT CAVE
HARDY CO, WV (SHAWN HOGGBIN)**

VOL. #32

ISS. #2

FEB

2017

#17



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LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
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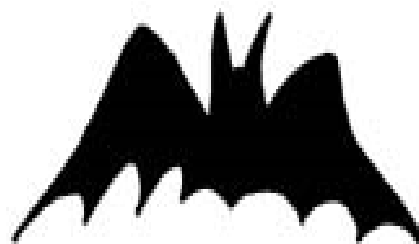
E-MAIL: gimpvcaver@comcast.net

**** The cover this month shows Clint Hogbin climbing out of Elkhorn Mt Cave. It was taken by his son Shawn Hogbin.**

****** Don't forget, the JONES QUARRY BOOKLET is ALMOST GONE! There are 10 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 gimpvcaver@comcast.net The copy will cost \$6.00 each!**

*******10 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!



CAVE IN EVENTS

***** CAVE BUCKS *****

2017

FEB 2 ---- Ground Hog Day
FEB 5 ---- Jones Quarry – TSG – 10am
FEB 8 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 18 --- Sinkhole cleanup – Melrose, VA –
9am – Contact Janet Tinkham
FEB 20 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB 28 --- Fat Tuesday
MAR 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAR 12 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS
MAR 14 --- PI DAY
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 20 --- VERNAL EQUINOX
MAR 24 --- MD Day
APR 1 ---- All Fool's Day
APR 2 ---- PB&J Day
APR 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
APR 14 --- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 16 --- EASTER
APR 17 --- TAX DAY
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY
APR 28 --- ARBOR DAY
APR 28-30 --- Spring VAR – Thorn Springs
MAY 1 --- Day of Prayer
MAY 5 --- Cinco de Mayo
MAY 5 --- WVASS Meeting – Unus, WV – 1pm
MAY 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
MAY 13 --- Adam Stephen Day – 9am
MAY 20 --- ARMED FORCES DAY
MAY 26-29 --- Speleofest – KY
MAY 29 --- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 2-4 --- Spring MAR/NRO – Cobleskill, NY
JUN 6-9 --- Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY
JUN 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUN 18 --- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 19-23 --- NSS Convention, Rio Rancho, NM
JUN 30-JUL 4 --- MAKC 20th Anniversary –
Blairsville, PA – Camping is free!!!!

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 JANUARY ----- \$39.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6461.50

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

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF JANUARY

Daniel Amundson, Erek Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Terri Griffin, Malakai Hanson, JD Hicks, Todd Zimmerman, Don Arrowood, Charlotte Bosley, Barry Duncan, Russell Linton, Carrie Marcum, Jim McPherson, Lexis Moates, Barbara Walthers, Will Walthers, Tyler Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REPORTS

TSG Meeting 1/11/17

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

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

Mail: MAKC is having a 20th anniversary celebration on July 1-4. The camping and party is free!

There is a sinkhole cleanup near Melrose, VA on Sat, Feb 18th.

Old Business: Doc is still working on cleaning/repairing the Grotto poles to the 30 x 20 tarp.

Tom talked about the amount of trash & metal from the cleanup in Greenbrier Co.

Wed night vertical sessions are on hold for the next 3 months while Eric Armer attends school out of town.

Wed night caving will be at Donaldson Cave on Jan 25th. Meet at 6pm at Rocs in Spring Mills.

Spring VAR will be held at Thorn Springs near Franklin, WV on Apr 28-30. It will be sponsored by Tommy & friends.

Doc mentions about going into Hamilton Cave at the VAR.

Cave Bucks: \$39.00. It will go to SCCI.

There is no date as of yet for the Adam Stephen Dig.

Bob said that TSG is now 31 years old!

John adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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

Adam Stephen Dig September 24, 2016

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Martinsburg, WV-We had a large rock in the way. We had chipped away on it with the Grotto Whacker during the last dig. Wanting the rock out of the way, it was decided to have Dave Knox come down and help.



Russell Linton shows his wife, pictures of the rock, that Tom Griffin (L) took on his phone.

We ran our flexible pipe down to the dig site. The fan was attached to the end of it and soon fresh air was being pumped down to the dig site.

Dave Knox went down the drop to the dig site and drilled some holes in the rock. Coming back up, he told us things were ready. So we stood back as Dave attacked the rock.

He did this several times. When he was finished, Dave had reduced the rock to many smaller pieces.



Dave Knox climbing out of the dig

We didn't remove any rocks that day. We just worked on reducing the rock.

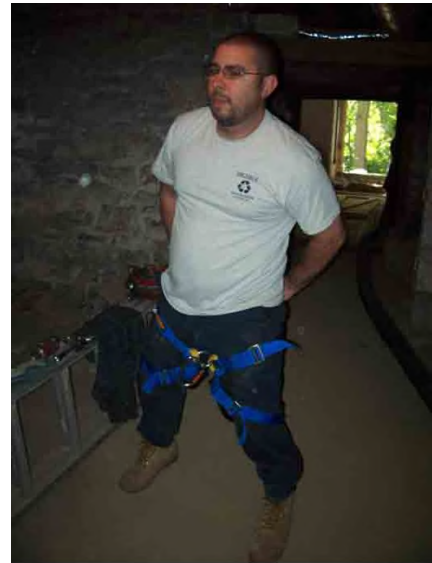
During this process we expected to raise a lot of dust in the attacks, but we never had the dust that was expected. After giving this some thought, the theory is, because of the barometric pressure, the dust could have been sucked into the passage that we are looking for. We will have to check this out during our next dig.

Our helpers today were: Dave Knox, Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Russell Linton and John DiCarlo.
(All photos by John DiCarlo)

Adam Stephen Dig Snaking Through

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

Martinsburg, WV-Tri-State Grotto again dug at the Adam Stephen House on October 15, 2016. We had a pile of rock at the bottom from our last endeavor there. A rock had been broken up and now needs to be removed.



Todd Zimmerman gearing up to drop down to the dig site.

The air pipe was put in place; with the fan attached and fresh air was being pushed into the dig site. Extension cords were run down, and rope was in place as the first person slid down the opening.



Russell Linton and Bob Bennett haul up a full bucket.

Soon buckets of rock were being hauled up. The first buckets of rock were being dumped on the pile of rock stored in the cellar. The Adam Stephen Group may use them in a future project.



Tom Griffin dumping a bucket of dirt.

After a while it was determined that there was enough chips of rock there and we took the rest outside to the dump spot. We have extended the hillside out several feet with the dumping of buckets of fill that were hauled out over the years.



Doc Phillips pouring dirt on the hillside.

Over time today, the buckets of rock turned into a dirt and rock mix, then to dirt only.



The lunch spread Keith Hammersla laid out for us, before he left for work.

By lunchtime we were up to 36 buckets of rock and 16 buckets of dirt.



Part of our lunch time crowd

Keith laid out our lunch spread that he had made, and had to run off to work, as they were short-handed. In doing so, he missed our lunchtime guest.



Our surprise lunchtime guest, a three foot-plus Black Rat Snake.

As we were moving from our lunch spot in the Triple Brick building back to the Adam Stephen House, we had a Black Rat Snake crawl across the brick patio on his way through to the back side of the building. He was over 3 feet long. It was something that he was out this late in the year. We didn't mess with the snake. We just watched and took pictures of his travels. When he dropped off the end of the patio we turned and went back to our dig.

Now the buckets were all dirt. At least this made the buckets a lot lighter.



John DiCarlo adding dirt to the hillside.
Photo by Doc Phillips

The buckets really started flowing now. One after another they were filled, hauled up, carried outside, and dumped on the bank. We were flying.



Paulette Bennett counting the buckets as they go out

Paulette Bennett kept track of the buckets for us today. We took out 90 buckets of dirt after lunch. Our totals were 36 buckets of rock, 106 buckets of dirt, for a total of 142 buckets.

Our helpers for the day were Bob Bennett, Doc Phillips, John DiCarlo, Tom Griffin, Jeff Marcum, Paulette Bennett, Russell Linton, Keith Hammersla, Todd Zimmerman, Tim Jordan, and one snake as a lunch guest. (All remaining photos by John DiCarlo.)



Wednesday Night Caving Wet in Donaldsons

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

Falling Waters, WV-On August 25, 2017, Tri-State Grotto met up to go to Donaldsons Cave.

After everyone arrived, we played follow the leader to our parking spot. We figured our vehicles were safe as all the people on the other side of the wall could keep an eye on them.

We made our way through the tall grass to the entrance. Adam Oates commented that the grass was taller than him.

Opening up the new lock with a new combination, we entered one by one. As we looked around, we looked to see how deep the water was. From what we had heard, I thought about bringing my kayak to float around and get some pictures.



Jerry Bowen at the bottom of the first slope looking for water

We looked and didn't see any water. Jerry Bowen climbed down and peeked into the smaller passage at the bottom. The water was halfway up this passage. Several people climbed down to look at it. On the map it shows water about at this level. It didn't show the room at the bottom.



Hannah and her dad walking through the water

We moved on and looked at the Civil War signatures. After some photos, we continued following the passage to the right. Around and over some big rocks, we climbed down to where the water level was. This also was about the same as what is on the map. We walked through about two feet of water for about 10 feet then climbed out onto a large slope.



Coming out of the water, Jerry Bowen is at the top of the slope in the big room

Climbing up the slope we looked around for more signatures and moved toward the upper left of the room.



Look at that!

After looking around here, we back-tracked to the top center of the room and climbed down through the going passage. This put us in a parallel passage. We snapped some photos of the best flowstone formation in the cave.



What's up, Hannah?

We sat there and talked saying how we had passed under the road and were on the other side. We started making our way back.



The best flowstone in the cave

Passing the flowstone we made our way to the back part of this passage. There are two crawl passages off this that people stuck their heads in.

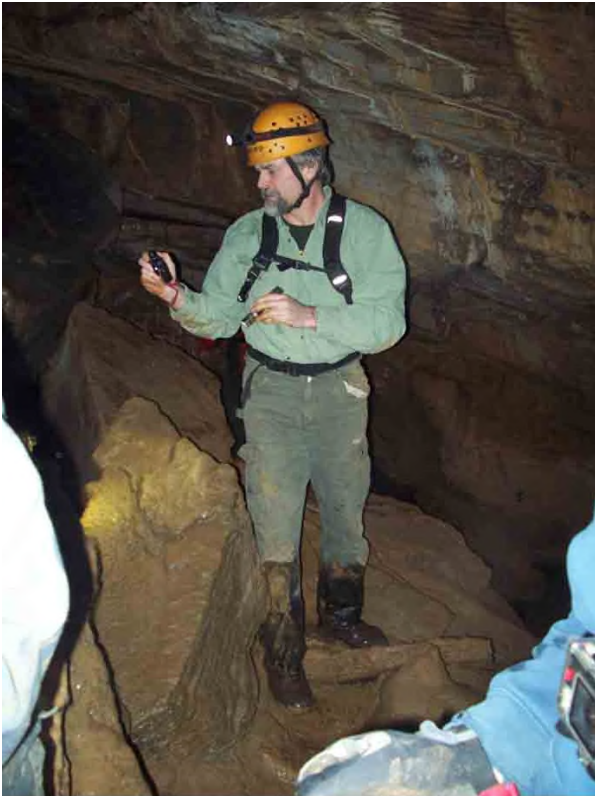


Sconce with a face, the Lady of the Cave

I saw a formation on the wall that looked like a sconce. If you look at the picture you can see a face in it. Look halfway down the sconce on the right

side, and you can see the profile of a nose with lips under it.

Moving on, we made our way back to the room with the flowstone. The entrance to the loop back to the entrance room had water in it. We were tempted to go through it anyway. But you would have to lay in it, and no one wanted to get that wet. It didn't look too deep only a few inches.



**This would look
good on YouTube**

We made our way through the tight spot back to the room with the large slope. Following the slope down, we reentered the water.



Adam and Hannah

This is where Adam and I got the wettest. As I climbed down I slipped and ended up kneeling in the water. This got me wet up to my waist. Adam said he was in the water and tripped over his own feet and got wet up to his chest.



Daniel Allen

We made it out of the water alive and climbed back up on the big block of stone. We climbed over it and down the other side. We passed the CW signatures and went partway up the entrance slope. Jerry took a few people through the passage on our left and circled around back to the room.



**A long white ribbon
coming down the wall**

We made our way back through the gate one by one. Locking the gate back up, we again hiked through the tall grass back to our vehicles.



Soda Straws

Getting the old trash bag out, we stripped off our muddy and wet clothes and changed for the ride home.



Our group of cavers

We had a great trip with four new cavers who had a blast. The water levels appear to be the normal heights that we have seen over the years. I have seen the water a LOT higher and I've seen it dry. With this cave you never know. It sits on top of a hill and water seems to enter it hydraulically from the bottom. (All photos by John DiCarlo)



**Civil War signatures in Donaldsons Cave Photo by
Mike Keesecker**

Historical information on Baker Caverns, Williamson, PA.

By Donald Arrowood

The earliest report I have found was a newspaper report in 1954 that reports the cave has been known ever since 1830, found by John Coffey. It was first called the John Coffey Cave and later Coffey Cave.



Untitled and undated picture of Coffey Cave/Baker Caverns before development, original entrance.
Picture provided by Charles E. Miller, Jr. of State College, PA.

Newspaper reports that Martin Burgan was previous involved with the development and opening of Crystal Grottoes of Maryland and had learned of a sizeable cave with a potential of being worthy of being a commercial cave in Pennsylvania, he visited the Williamson area. The cave was leased from J. Baker Limestone Company of York, PA in 1931 by Martin L. Burgan and in 1941 Mr. Burgan purchased the land.



Early undated picture of the building over the cave entrance, the Baker Caverns Gift Shop. This picture is taken from across the road from in the picnic and park area.

Picture provided by Charles E. Miller, Jr. of State College, PA.

Baker Caverns opened on the 4th of July weekend of 1932. The Gift Shop with the Cavern Entrance under the northern side of the front porch was open for business.

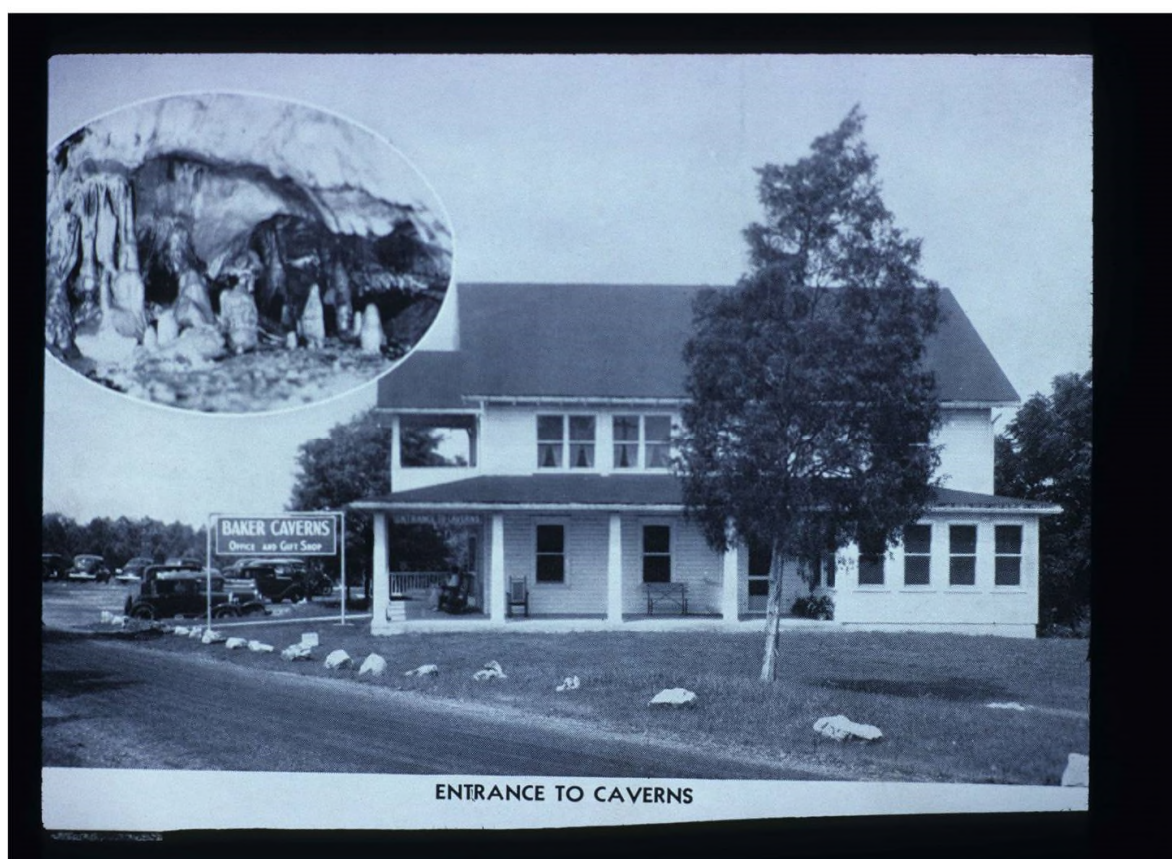
Early 1933 newspaper reports that Ancient Relics, Bones of Early Animals and Indian Implements were found in Baker Caverns.

The first marriage in Baker Caverns was on Sunday afternoon, August 27, 1933 at 4:00pm in the Cathedral Room. Miss Mildred Carter of Hagerstown, MD and Donald Ray Beckley of Halfway, MD. The marriage was performed by the bride's father, Rev. J. M. Carter. With over 100 persons in attendance, and there was some famous names on the list, with one being R. W. Stone of the Pennsylvania State Geological Survey; his wife and their children.

Mr. Burgan reported that Baker Caverns hosted a total of 24 subterranean wedding during its operation.

The property was abounding with cedar trees, Mr. Burgan put to use the cedar trees to make souvenirs and mementos to sell in the souvenir shop. Mr. Burgan was quite a woodworker and very imaginative on creating objects to sell. He even took advantage of Christmas time; he ran advertisements in the local newspapers to sell Cedar Christmas trees during the season.

In the early 1950's there was something strange going on in the Williamson, PA area, land was being bought up and it was all secret and no explanations given as to the purpose of it. The Chambersburg Attorney George S. Black would not state as to why he was buy up such large amounts of land. Rumors that were going around about all this property being bought up, one included that it was going to be for a "Second Pentagon".



Baker Caverns post card of how it looks, much as it does now with the addition of the living quarters.
Picture provided by Charles E. Miller, Jr. of State College, PA.

In July of 1953 Mr. Burgan was to sell the Caverns and 155 acres to the Chambersburg Attorney George S. Black. Under the agreement of sale was that Mr. Burgan still had control to operate the commercial Caverns for a one year period after the sale that was till July 13, 1955. Mr. Burgan in a statement to the newspapers in September 1954 that he was closing Baker Caverns before the end of the calendar year. Closing of Baker Caverns came quickly, on Labor Day weekend 1954 was it last. On Saturday, Oct 23, 1954 at 12:00 O'CLOCK SHARP was the Public Sale of the Household goods of Martin L. and his wife Edna G. Burgan, Baker Caverns, Greencastle, Rt. No. 1.

Obituary

Martin Luther Burgan born October 1, 1882 died May 1, 1957. His death certificate has his Usual occupation listed as; Retired Owner Baker Caverns.

Edna Gertrude Snavely Burgan died in Chambersburg at 82 years on Thursday, January 8, 1976. Born in Sharpsburg, MD. to the late Joseph and Annie Smith Snavely. She owned and operated Baker Caverns in Williamson, Pa. from 1932 to 1954.

The mysterious buyer and the purchase of the land in Williamson, PA was finely answered, land had been purchased from 1952 until 1959, 35 land parcels was bought up for a total of 3,185.18 acres at a price of just over 1.1 million dollars. The buyer was the Bethlehem Steel Company to have for reserves of the metallurgical limestone in that area. Bethlehem Steel sold this same land in 11 plots to other companies and individuals on December 13, 1988 for a cost of 3 million dollars. Baker Caverns, Baker Cave #2, Baker Cave #3 and Kirk's Pit are on the parcel that the Meyer brothers purchased, and the majority of the remainder of the caves are on the Valley Quarries/New Enterprise property. Which are at this time closed for an undetermined time period?

My thanks to Charles E. Miller, Jr. of State College, PA for the pictures and filling in some of the blanks for this article, more to read his publication titled "Baker Caverns and Selected Caves in Vicinity of Chambersburg, PA.



**Adam, Micah, & James at Donaldson Cave
(Photo by Jerry Bowen)**



**Tom removing old lock from Donaldson Cave
(Photo by Bob Bennett)**



**Tom coming out of Showalters Holler Cave
(Photo by Bob Bennett)**



**David in Jones Quarry Cave
(Photo by Doc Phillips)**



**Aquachigger in Donaldson Cave
(Photo by John DiCarlo)**



GANNY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 5TH - MARCH 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 5 JQ Cave - 10:00 am	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8  Meeting 7pm	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11
Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14  VALENTINE'S DAY	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18 Sinkhole cleanup Melrose Rd, Rockingham, VA-see Janet Tinkham
Feb 19	Feb 20 PRESIDENT'S DAY	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25
Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28 FAT TUESDAY	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4
Mar 5	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8  Meeting 7pm	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11
Mar 12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS	Mar 13	Mar 14 PI DAY	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17  ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18

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One of the Norborne Caves (Photo by Bob Bennett)

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