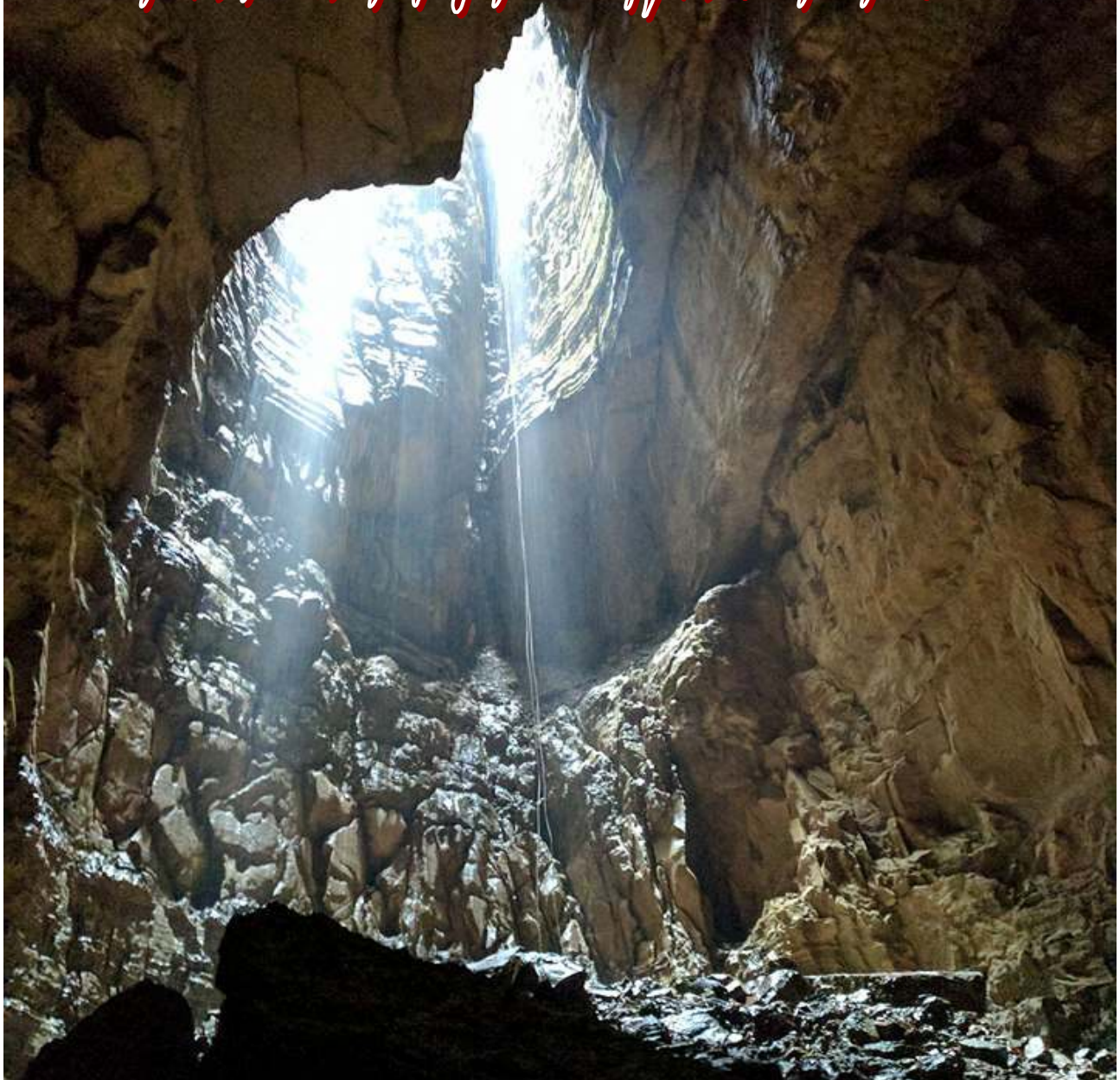


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



TORODE PIT, TN, (PHOTO BY MARK JONARD)

VOL. #32

ISS. #5

MAY

2017

#63



LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
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 or can be SENT TO:

JERRY BOWEN, TREASURER
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 17817 STONE VALLEY CR.
 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
 301-465-2651

E-MAIL: bookmaker-jb@myactv.net

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
 TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
 464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
 GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
 304-821-4621

E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

** The cover this month shows a photo of the
 bottom of Torode Pit in TN. The photo was taken
 by Mark Jonard.

**** 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 gimpycaver@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 HAVE 6 POSITIONS OPEN!
PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!



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GROTTTO.

All material for inclusion in the **DEAD DOG**
DISPATCH must be sent to the EDITOR NO BY THE
25TH OF EACH MONTH.

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FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY

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CAVE EVENTS

2017

APR 28-30 ---Spring VAR – Thorn Springs

MAY 1 --- Day of Prayer

MAY 1 --- May Day

MAY 5 --- Cinco de Mayo

MAY 6 --- WVASS Meeting – Unus, WV – 1pm

MAY 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

MAY 13 --- Adam Stephen Day – 9am

MAY 14 --- MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 19-21 --- SERA – Sequatchie, TN

MAY 20 --- Scout trip to Baker Quarry – Work on gate -see Tom

MAY 20 --- ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 20 --- McAllisterville Cave cleanup

MAY 26-29 --- Speleofest – Bonnieville, KY

MAY 29 --- MEMORIAL DAY

JUN 2-4 --- Spring MAR/NRO – Cobleskill, NY

JUN 9-11 --- Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks

JUN 10-11 --- WVACS weekend

JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY

JUN 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

JUN 18 --- FATHER'S DAY

JUN 19-23 --- NSS Convention, Rio Rancho, NM

JUN 20 --- WV Day

JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE

JUN 30-JUL 4 --- MAKC 20th Anniversary –
Blairsville, PA – Camping is free!!!!

JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY

JUL 8-9 --- WVACS Classic

JUL 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

JUL 20-23 --- Karst-O-Rama – Great Saltwater
Preserve

AUG 4-6 --- Indiana Cave Capers – Carydon, IN

AUG 5 --- Annual TSG Picnic – Blue Ridge

Acres, Harpers Ferry, WV – 12 noon-6pm

AUG 9 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day

AUG 26 --- Boy Scout Powder Horn – Camp Rock
Enon – see Tom or Bob about helping

AUG 31 --- SEP 4 – OTR

SEP 2 --- Doo Dah Parade – 10 am

SEP 2 --- Polyester Power Hour Trip – 1pm

SEP 4 --- LABOR DAY

SEP 22-24 --- Fall VAR – Spruce Knob, WV

OCT 9 --- Columbus Day

OCT 11 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm - Auction

OCT 31 --- HALLOWEEN

NOV 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Nominations

NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY

NOV 23 --- THANKSGIVING DAY

NOV 24 --- BLACK FRIDAY

DEC 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections

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 APRIL ----- **\$32.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6572.50

**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/>

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/

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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



MONTH OF MAY

Daniel Allen, Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson,
Eric Berge, Stephen Bowen, JC Fisher, Chase
Griffin, Lucas Hanson, Deborah Hihn, Doyle
Garvin, Steve Lepley, Greg McCoy, Pat Minnick

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Tri-State Grotto Meeting

4/12/17

John called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

Bob talked about a \$200 donation to the Grotto
from Destination America.

We have officially received our notification that the
Grotto is now Incorporated.

Doc showed the refurbished canopy poles and
talked about what he has done to them.

New Business: Doc wanted to know when we were
going to resume monthly vertical practice.

Old Business: Bob talked about the parking issue at
Whittings Neck Cave. The owner wants all cavers to
enjoy the cave!

There was a trip to Endless Caverns to repair and
change non-working lightbulbs.

Bob talked about the Grotto Library. There was
some discussion about how to handle the loaning of
the Grotto books. Some are quite expensive.

Bob Liebman has cancer and is selling all of his
caving gear and books.

Spring VAR: April 28-30 at Thorn Spring
Campground.

Fall VAR will be held near Spruce Knob, WV.

Trips: Bob talked about the sinkholes at the
Jefferson Co State Police Barracks and the Coast
Guard. He also checked on Inwood Cave and a cave
in Jefferson Co along the VA state line.

Jerry went to Indian River and saw Bill Jackson and
a group of scouts at Whittings Neck.

Cave Bucks: \$32.00 – Sent to SCCI.

Wed Night Caving: April 19th at Dam #4 Cave –
Meet at the parking area at 6pm.

Adam Stephen / Heritage Day is Sat, May 13th
starting at 9am.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto



County accepts bid for sinkhole mitigation

Martinsburg Journal – April 11, 2017

KEARNEYSVILLE –After a sinkhole opened up in the Burr Industrial Park in August, the Jefferson County engineering department and the county commission have accepted a bid by an engineering firm to mitigate the sinkhole.

According to a report by GeoConcepts Engineering, a sinkhole opened up in the Burr Industrial Park and was mitigated in early August. However, a second sinkhole had opened near the first one, leading the county's chief engineer, Roger Goodwin, to propose the county hire a firm to investigate and mitigate the second sinkhole.

"There was another sinkhole that was remediated with GeoConcepts, but then another one popped up," Goodwin said. "We want to see if the sinkholes are interconnected. These sinkholes can be features of Karst geology, which we have in the area."

Karst geology is a description for a naturally occurring phenomenon in which rain or groundwater seeps into limestone under the soil. The water forms caves and caverns underground when it comes in contact with the limestone, and those subterranean tunnels can collapse and form sinkholes, according to Goodwin.

In a presentation to the Jefferson County Commission, Goodwin said he had previously discussed finding out whether the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District would be able to provide funding for investigating and remediating the second sinkhole, which is located near the West Virginia State Police barracks on Industrial Boulevard in the Burr Industrial Park. He said the conservation district does not have the funding, but he suggested investigating and remediating the sinkhole anyway.

Goodwin said several bids were submitted for the remediation work: GeoConcepts's bid in the amount of \$12,660; Kable Excavating's bid of \$900 for excavation only and Allegheny Surveys Inc.'s bid

of \$7,700 to prepare topographic maps and identify the drainage area surrounding the sinkhole; and Mountain Research LLC's bid of \$13,000 for remediation work.

The county commission voted to award the bid to GeoConcepts. Goodwin said the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is looking to complete a survey of the sinkhole and surrounding area by June 1.

Staff writer Mary Stortstrom (supplied by Bob Bennett)

Subject: Cave Prom Trip Report

On April 22nd WVUSG decided to hold a Cave Prom. The purpose of this event was to get nice clothes, dress up as if it was a formal event, and go caving. There was some early debate on which cave would be the best for such an occasion, but eventually we decided on attending Boar Hole Cave, in Greenbrier County. It would be the first time I had been to the cave. Out of the group of 12 we had, only one had been to the cave before.

Prom officially started on Friday night, once everyone arrived at the WVACS station. I personally retired at the absurd hour of 10:30pm, while some others were more reasonable and stayed up until 5am. The group was woken up at 10:00 for a Tudor's Biscuit World run, which hit the spot. There were rumors of some strange characters from the Eastern Panhandle hopping around WVACS, however, they remain unconfirmed. After eating, we slowly started our drive to the cave. The cave itself is not far at all from WVACS. However, due to an outdated GPS and poor navigation, a 30-minute drive doubled in time. We eventually found our way to the correct place and knocked on Carroll Bassett's door and he was willing to let us park in his driveway. He gave us walking directions to the cave, and was more than kind.

Once all of the cars were in place we got dressed for prom. Most of the guys were in ties and shirts, a few of us had jackets. The ladies had put themselves

into dresses and leggings. After a few pictures, we started the short hike to the cave.

only 20 feet or so long, but once you got out of this small passage, you were in some wonderful borehole passage.



All dressed up to go caving (by Shawn Hogbin)

The entrance to the cave is a vertically oriented culvert, like Maxwelton's, except this one is much shorter. After a 20 ft climb down a ladder you enter the cave. The first few rooms are wide but have low ceilings, so everyone was crouching. Initially there was some confusion over which hole to go down to continue through the cave, but that was found quickly. From there, we had to deal with some short crawls, and stoop passage, but the cave opened up very quickly.

There was a small piece of pre-rigged webbing that we used to descend into a large Junction Room. The room was very muddy and slick. There was a heavy drip in the room, that in high water, could easily turn into a waterfall. The group stopped here partially to enjoy the room, but also to figure out where they wanted to go next. There was one route that would require the group climbing up a steep mud covered slope, that if you slipped, risked being tossed into a breakdown pile. I wanted to avoid sending some of the group through that. As I sat down I noticed a fairly obvious passage breaking off the Junction Room, near the waterfall. It was

This passage had a flat ceiling and about as flat as a floor as you get in a cave. The floor was muddy, so it wasn't exactly perfect for bicycling, but it was close. The borehole had to be at least 20 feet high and 40 feet wide and stretched for over 1000 feet. Along the way, the group found a good slope to examine several times over, after being slicked up with nearby water. We were thoroughly covered in mud afterwards.

This signaled the end of our trip. On the way out I could not help but think about how little of the cave we actually saw in the 3 hours we were under. It is the 13th longest

cave in the state of WV.

We emerged to a rainy day, which might have been helpful cleaning us off, but it did manage to make the trail down very slick. Walking the trail produced more spills and slips than the entire trip in the cave. Once shedding our formal attire, my car, made up of myself, Mark Jonard, and Emily Neely decided to hit another cave.

The cave we had in mind was something I had seen in the Davies book for WV, the Sinks of Sinking Creek. The description was accompanied by a picture of a very large entrance and talk of very large passage, even though it was short. The description was more than fair.

My small group followed the Sinking Creek and its curvy nature all the way to the cave. The hike to the cave involved a lot of stream crossing and wading in water. It took us easily over 90 minutes to get to the cave, most of the distance we covered was truly unnecessary. However, the entrance to the cave was something beautiful. The creek we were following trends towards a mountain, and instead of going around the mountain, it flows through it. The entrances are only 800 feet apart, and are very

similar. The entrances are both at the base of 100' limestone cliffs. Both entrances boast at least 30 foot ceilings and 100 foot widths. The cave is uniform in nature, with a downward slanting ceiling, but retains high ceilings and impressive width.

Almost as soon as you enter the cave you can see the light from the other side. The cave is surprisingly tedious to traverse because the floor is entirely made of breakdown. The journey to the other side did not take long. We were greeted with rimstone pools from a drip line and an entrance just as impressive as the other. Even though the cave was short, it was extremely unique and I am glad I took time to walk to it. For the trip back, we were smart enough to not follow Sinking Creek, but rather just walk in a straight-line right to the road. We made it back to the car in half the time it took us to find the cave.

Keep Kevin

-Shawn Hogbin

Higginbotham #4 Cave

On Friday, April 7th, myself and 6 others headed down to the WVACS field house. 4 of us had plans to go caving that night. We had contacted the landowners of Higginbotham's #4 Cave, and they were okay with our late evening trip into their cave. After managing to make it across the wet field in our cars, we enjoyed a brisk 32-degree night. We headed into the cave around 10:15.

The trip was made up of myself, Mark Jonard, Emily Dillon and Emily Neely. It was the first wild cave for Emily Neely. The entrance is a low 100 ft crawl through mud and river cobbles. Knee pads are probably a good choice. Once you are out of the crawl-way you are home free in some stream borehole. You can get wet up to your chest, but if you can be crafty, manage to only get waist deep.

The cave has some nice sections that are decorated with flowstone. The cave was very drippy, more than I remember the last time I was there. There were very active weep-holes in the walls that served as mini waterfalls. There is one section of the passage that is very well decorated, with nice columns, and flowstone formations. Beyond this is where the cave gets wet. I was the only person on the trip that had been in H4 and I had never been to the sump at the back.

It took us about an extra 45 minutes, but we made it to the sump of H4. It was a two-step waterfall that, if you got tossed in, you probably couldn't get out. It was incredibly loud and we had to yell to communicate with someone next to us. After seeing this, we turned around and headed out.

The trip back out was uneventful, minus some traction issues on mud banks. Our exit time was 12:15, we had caved from one day to the next. We returned to WVACS to get some rest. Everyone slept in late, except for Mark and Emily Dillon, who were leaving to head back to Morgantown.

The plans for Saturday, April 8th, was to go to Rehobeth Church, which is a cave that I had never been to. Kyle Draper, Mackenzie Miniuck and Josh Mosley, some other cavers, friends of Wayne Perkins, tagged along. When we pulled up to Rehobeth Church we were immediately greeted by the landowner, Anita. She was very kind, and accommodated us in every way possible. We stood around getting ready, and headed into the cave.

The entrance to the cave was a little disorienting, but we quickly got into the main passage. The cave had a lot of water in it, and my feet and hands had no choice but to get wet. We were not in the cave long when I heard that a member of our group was having shoulder problems. She headed out early along with others. That left Mackenzie, Josh, Kyle and myself in the cave. We caved along, stopping when we saw formations. The cave is very sporty and has a lot of pleasurable climbs and crawls to keep you on your toes.

We managed to find our way to one of the larger rooms in the cave, called the Kondasum. It was

very well decorated, namely with flowstone and soda straws. I regret not bringing my camera. The most interesting formation in the room, to me, was the 7-8 ft tall column that could not have exceeded 4 inches wide at any point. It looked like a skinny pole connecting the floor and ceiling. At this point, some people were talking about low batteries and wanting to head out. The trip back was fast, and we emerged to a very nice, 65 degrees. We had only been in the cave for 1 hour and 30 minutes. It is a cave I most certainly want to see again.

-Shawn Hogbin

TAG Spring Break: Round 2

For WVU Students, Spring Break is a week when students run south, to beyond the border or to Southern Florida to enjoy the beach, sun and other amenities. The WVU Student Grotto indeed went south, but stopped short of the border, in landlocked Tennessee. On March 3rd, 13 members of the WVUSG left on a 9 hour drive down to the TAG Region. There were 2 competing trips, one that was made up of some older WVUSG members and separate cavers, and then one group that was entirely WVUSG members, and was the WVUSG sponsored trip. Because of this, the head count was not always 13, on occasion it was a tad under.

Everyone for the official WVUSG trip pulled into Caver's Paradise outside of Kimball TN around 2 am. Some of us managed to sleep in, others were not so lucky. Once everyone was up, we made our way to the local Waffle House. This Waffle House would become our breakfast location for every morning. I personally had to go drive to meet a landowner near Torode Pit, but there was no need for the rest of the group to join me for that venture. So, they occupied their time by going to Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave, which is a well decorated cave that is not far at all from the road. It is a short cave and worth seeing if given the shot. This would be the only "caving" that would be accomplished for the rest of the trip. The rest of the trip would be dedicated to pitting. The cave has a massive number

of stalactites, columns and flowstone. The picture below is a close-up of some of the smaller formations and crystals in the cave.



(Photo by Shawn Hogbin)

My trip to speak with a landowner near Torode Pit went well, and I was a little eager to get to go caving. When I returned to camp, I asked around if anyone was interested in going to see South Pittsburg Pit (156 ft). A group totaling in 6 were interested, so we made the relatively short drive out. I had visited the pit before and was glad to be back, it had been a year. The cave had not changed at all, and it was a nice treat for the newbies, and could claim South Pittsburg as their first TAG pit.



Under A Rock - 2016

The previous is a picture taken by Ryan Maurer of the pit at dusk, not from this trip, but a previous one.

It had been a busy day for me, and even for others, but it was an early night, and there were 3 pits on the list for the next day.

We had the privilege of spending most of our day around the town of Orme, TN. The group would split up into 2 groups of 6. I would lead one, and Mark Jonard would lead the other. Larson's Well (161 ft) would be the first task for my group. Larson's well is a friendly hike that follows a road for the majority, until you need to make a spontaneous turn to head up the mountain. The entrance is not easy to find without GPS coordinates or something better. The first 15 feet of the drop is a little narrow and not too enjoyable to rappel or ascend, however, after that it becomes a wonderful drippy pit. There are some small water drips on your side, and a very loud stream/waterfall not far from the bottom of the entrance pit. There is a waterfall pit, but no one in the group was too eager to jump into the water. Here is a picture by WVUSG member, Wayne Perkins, of me at the entrance.

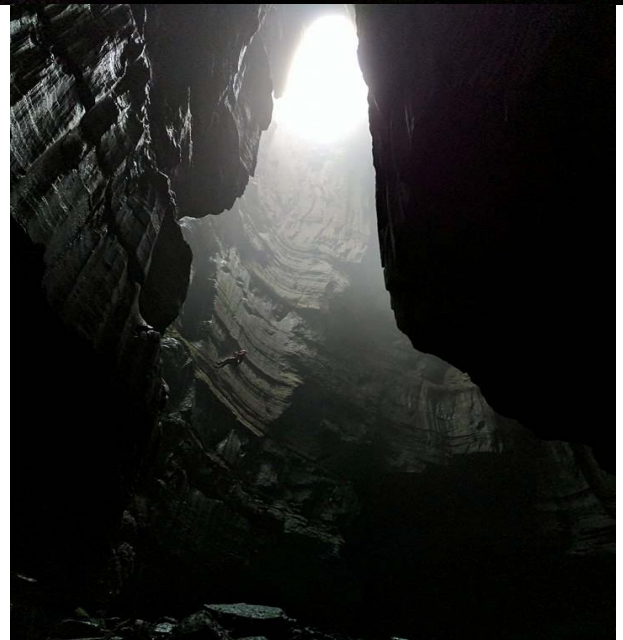
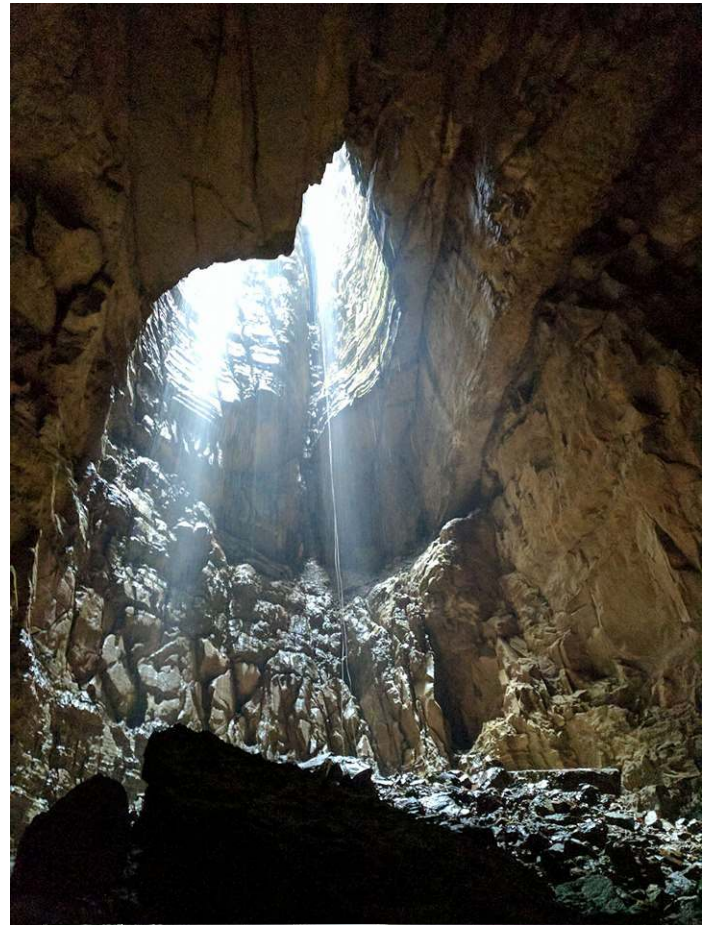


After bouncing Laron's, it was time for us to bounce Just Got Lucky (133 ft) and Lucky's Revenge (60 ft?). The previous group told us that they did not enjoy these caves too much, so I was interested heading in. By the end, I understood why they weren't too thrilled about them. Both have tight entrances and they can force you into awkward positions. Just Got Lucky was a little easier than Lucky's Revenge, which was very tight, possibly the tightest work I have done on rope. However, before I got to do any of the pits, I realized I had misplaced my D-ring. I tore apart the car, drove back to Larson's Well, and looked up and down the mountain, all to no avail. This put a damper on the beginning of the trip, but I would manage the rest of the trip. I just had to be a bum and ask to borrow one from the first person out of the pit. JGL had one re-belay in it, and it was a broken-up pit. Lucky's Revenge had its entrance drop, which was most likely around 60 feet, and then it had a second drop, which was so close to the entrance drop, I used the same rope to rig it. The second pit was also very tight, and was most likely a 40-foot drop. Below are pictures of Lucky's Revenge & JGL respectively.

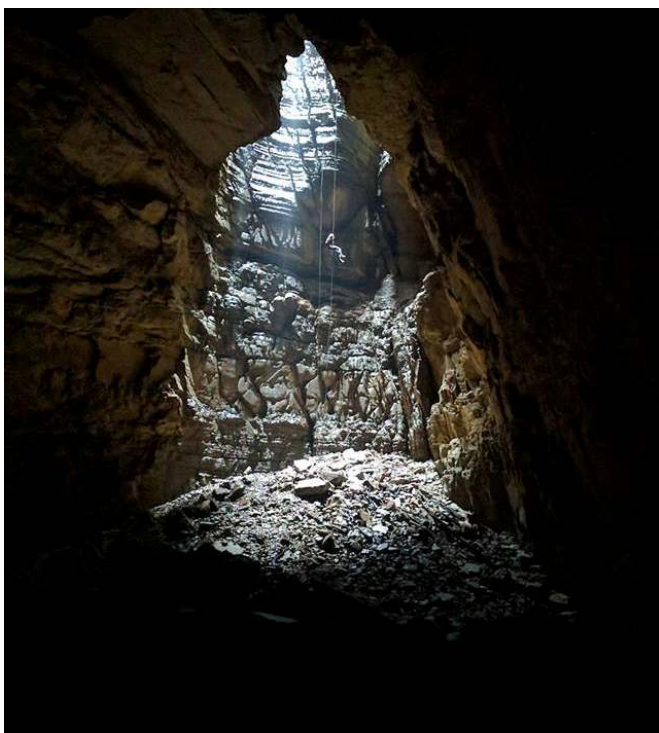




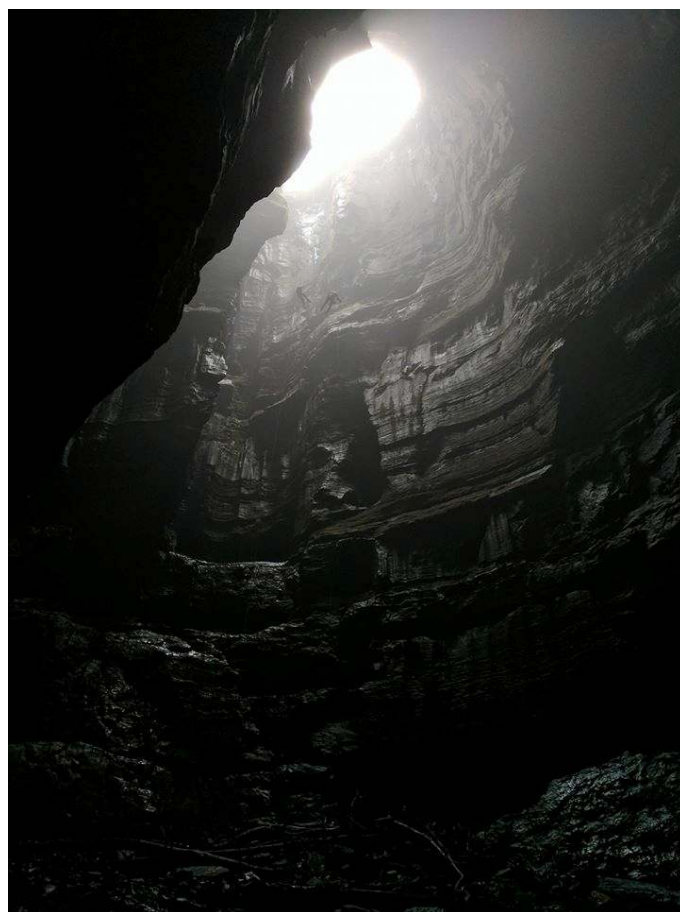
teases you into thinking there is a massive system to explore, but the whole thing can be seen in under 20 minutes, easily. Pictures were taken by Mark Jonard.



Our group had made it all the way to Monday. At this point the Waffle House waitresses started to recognize us. Today, we had our insights set on Torode Pit. Torode is a 190-footer, that drops into large borehole passage, and is very photogenic. We had secured permission from a gentleman to park on his property, that was on top of the mountain. This significantly shortened the walk to the cave. With that said, the walk to the cave was very steep and rocky. You had to walk with caution and stagger yourself from those around you, so you don't send a rock fall onto them. The cave itself is located on an obvious bench, and is deceptively steep around the entrance. Rigging the ropes took quite a good portion of time, due to a small tree that had fallen at the entrance. We spent a good portion of our time clearing the tree and branches. Since I was down a D-ring, I waited patiently at the top as all the members went down the pit. Once someone was kind enough to lend me one, I could enjoy this wonderful pit. I was extremely happy to see this pit, and is now one of my favorites. The entrance is a little drippy, and the massive borehole passage



For Tuesday, we had Valhalla (228ft) planned. It had rained over the night, and it didn't look like it was going to stop for the rest of the day. So, the road was sloppy and the hike was more than wet. The new Valhalla road was leagues better than it was when I visited it over the summer, but still requires a 4WD vehicle to go all the way to the pit. Rigging at Valhalla was surprisingly quick and that was refreshing. Since everyone was wet, morale was a little low and no one had enough motivation to go back to see Mega Dome. Once I got into the pit, we just enjoyed ourselves in the entrance, but out of the rain. About the time I got to the bottom, however, the rain really started to pour down. I was sitting at the bottom of the pit, with 6 others, and suddenly, a low moan comes from the mountain, and immediately grabs everyone's attention. Everyone got a little bit alarmed, and then the low moan happened again, and that is when we realized, a thunderstorm had begun. Getting to ascend Valhalla in the middle of a thunderstorm was certainly a surreal experience. I also think that was easily the fastest I have ever climbed out of Valhalla. Picture from Mark Jonard.

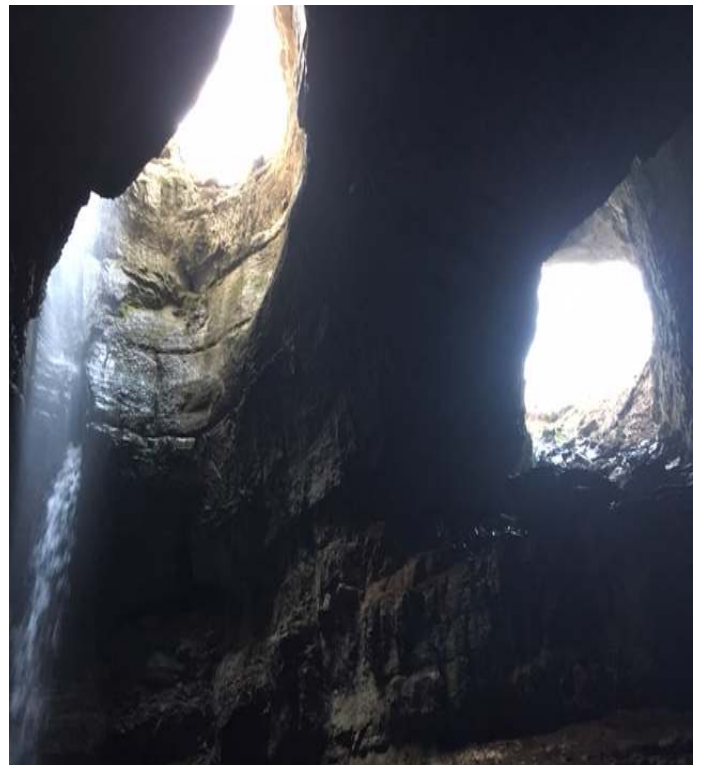


For Wednesday, we had two pits planned. Kenna Pit (123 ft) and Secret Pit (144 ft) are both located on the same preserve and are within a mile of each other. The access road is a dirt road, and is friendly to 4WD vehicles and any with medium to high clearance. This would be another day that we would be splitting up into 2 groups. My group would go to Kenna Pit first. In order to get to Kenna you need to walk past the Orgy Entrance to the Kennamer system, and walk up quite the hill. We once again decided to partake in no caving once at the bottom, but we did see an "albino" crayfish in a small pool near the entrance. We made quick work of the pit, and hiked down, back towards Secret. We passed our other group, so the timing was going well. Secret was nicer looking than Kenna, and had a slightly larger entrance. Everyone made quick work of the cave here too, while a grotto member, Jessi made sure to sing all songs in her mental library. We made it out in time to go to Ole Hickory BBQ, maybe 30 minutes away, and I recommend. Pictured below are the entrance to Kenna and Secret, respectively.



Photos by Shawn Hogbin

The plan was to do Moses' Tomb on Thursday, however, after seeing how the group moves slowly, even with two ropes, we made the call to nix that cave. Luckily the preserve manager of Stephen's Gap (142 ft) was willing to let us move our permit a day forward. So, we went to Stephen's Gap. The night before, a plan had been hatched for WVUSG Members, Jessi and Mark to get married, none of us are sure it was a joke or not. All of us hope it is. On the way to the cave, they stopped at the Unclaimed Baggage Center and purchased a ring, and some "nice clothes." To add to the plan, Emily, a past president of WVUSG, quickly became an ordained minister online. After everyone had got their drops in, Mark waited at the bottom, at The Pedestal, on one knee for Jessi to rappel in. The ceremony took place shortly after, and it managed to wake Edgar from his hammock induced coma. Once the wedding was over, we packed our bags and headed back to camp. Pictures below of the shenanigans.





However, after getting soaked, combined with a member of the grotto wanting to go back north for personal reasons, I left after breakfast with a full car. The rest of the grotto went to Neversink, through the leadership of Mark. From what I know, it was amazing, as expected. I returned from TAG with 6 new caves/pits under my belt. Which brings the current total to 63 individual caves. I would check it off as a good trip.

Also, I would like to thank Terry McClanathan and Andy Zellner for all the help, directions and guidance they offered. Without them this trip would not have happened.

-Shawn Hogbin

GROTTO ACTIVITIES



Ted's Hole (Jerry Bowen)



Repairing lights at Endless Dave Lucas)

That night, a very aggressive storm moved in, with high winds, lightening, and my personal favorite, hail. Almost everyone had a rough night. I would be leaving that day, and I had planned to do Neversink.

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

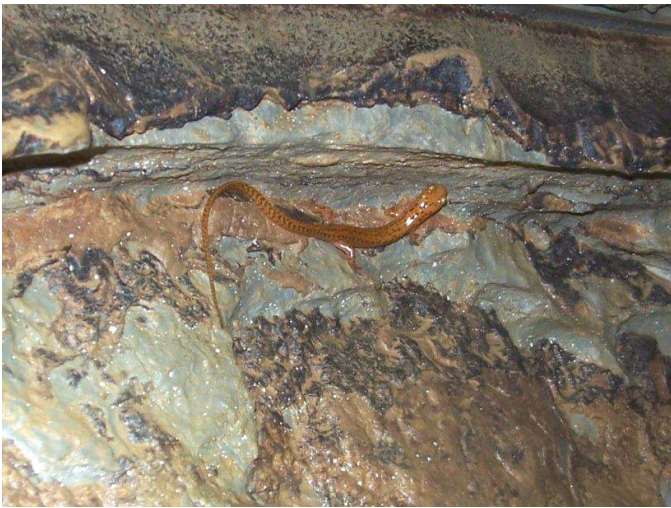
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MAY

2017

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Salamander in Dam #4 (John DiCarlo)



Tom rigging pit in Greenbrier (Bob B)



Looking out the Entrance to Dam #4 (Doc Phillips)



Spring in Jefferson Co (Bob B)



Bat in Dam #4 (David Allen)




The gopher see it's shadow (John DiCarlo)



CAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 7TH - JUNE 17TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10  Meeting 7pm	May 11	May 12	May 13 Adam Stephen Day 10am
May 14 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19 SERA - Sasquatchie, TN	May 20 SERA - Sasquatchie, TN ARMED FORCES DAY Baker Quarry - Work on gate 10am McAllisterville Cave cleanup
May 21 SERA - Sasquatchie, TN	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26 Speleofest - Bonnieville, KY	May 27 Speleofest - Bonnieville, KY
May 28 Speleofest - Bonnieville, KY	May 29 Speleofest - Bonnieville, KY  MEMORIAL DAY	May 30	May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2 Spring MAR/NRO - Cobleskill, NY	Jun 3 Spring MAR/NRO - Cobleskill, NY
Jun 4 Spring MAR/NRO - Cobleskill, NY	Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9 Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks WVACS weekend	Jun 10 Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks WVACS weekend
Jun 11 Bubble weekend at Nancy Hanks WVACS weekend	Jun 12	Jun 13	Jun 14  Meeting 7pm  FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Small pool of water in Donaldson Cave (Jerry Bowen)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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