

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO



Under A Rock - 2017

FLOYD WAGGY CAVE, PENDLETON CO, WV
(PHOTO BY RYAN MAURER)

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#123



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**** The cover this month was published with permission from Ryan Mauer. It shows Bob Edmonds in Waggy Cave, Pendleton Co, WV.**

**** 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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I.#10

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CAVING EVENTS

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

2017

OCT 5-8 --- TAG Fall Cave-In - AL
 OCT 9 --- Columbus Day
 OCT 11 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Auction
 OCT 14 --- Sinkhole cleanup - 9am – Melrose, VA
 OCT 14 --- Adam Stephen dig – 930 am
 OCT 21 --- Bridge Day
 OCT 28 --- New River Cave - FRG
 OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE
 (HALLOWEEN)
 NOV 5 --- Daylight Saving Time Ends
 NOV 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Nominations
 NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY
 NOV 11 --- WVCC Banquet – 630pm
 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
 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 SEPTEMBER----- \$20.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6685.51

The money was sent to SCCI.

Keep It Coming!

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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF OCTOBER

Tina Blaik, Tyler Coulson, Bob Denton, Chrissy Hogbin, Lindsay Kerfoot, Bonnie Keesecker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY





TSG Meeting 9/13/17

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

Correspondence: None

Bob added 50 + books to the Grotto Library list. He named different lists of books.

Fall VAR is Sept 21-24, 2017. It will be held at Spruce Knob, WV

Canopy poles; Doc has purchased a sand blaster. He will report on the progress of the poles.

Doc was given permission to purchase a container to store the helmets.

Old Business: No one purchase any of the vertical equipment at OTR.

TSG resurrected the Polyester Power Hour again this year. It was a success.

The next Adam Stephen dig will be held Sat, Oct 14th at 9:30 am.

New Business: Doc talked about the mention of the TSG article that appeared in the *NSS News*.

Trips: Several people talked about the Still House cave trip at OTR. The trip to the closed cave last month was also talked about.

Next week, Wed, Sep 20 at 6pm, is the next vertical session at James Rumsey.

The Christmas party will be held on Sat, Dec 16th at 6pm.

Cave Bucks: \$20, it will be sent to SCCI.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

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

A Captive Audience

On the weekend of 9/9/17 WVU Student Grotto held Beginner's Weekend. It is held every year and it is our attempt to attract new students to caving. For a lot of people on the trip, it is their first time ever going caving, or possibly their first time in a wild cave. The caves we go to are traditionally Stillhouse and Sinks of Gandy. We do through trips for both caves. I knew we would get these caves done by the early afternoon, which leaves a lot of time for nerd-holing.

Since it was Beginner's Weekend, I was driving some newbies around. The car was full of 5 people, including myself, two of which cave with me frequently, Ed and Emily. The other two individuals had just done their first caves only a few hours ago. They willingly tagged along to this nerd-hole trip, and it is questionable to this day if they truly enjoyed the experience.

The first two caves on my list were not actually total nerd-holes. The first was Commander Adama's Killer Bat Cave, which is not too far from Sinks. However, there were a few "No Trespassing" signs, it was close to a house, and we did not want to disturb the landowners. We chalked it up as a wash.

From there we made our trip back to Route 33, and headed back towards Elkins. Along the way we stopped and looked at Alpena Cave. It is a roadside cave, and I had never been there before. The cave is mostly stooping and water-crawls. The water is never very deep. There are two passages that run parallel to each other, but we only did one passageway, due to the fact I could not find the connection over to the other passage. The cave in total has over a mile of passage. It does have some nice tiny domes to relieve you when you get tired of crawling. This would be the largest cave on my detour.

After this we headed to the Bowden area. Bowden cave is currently gated and closed, so that was not the target of interest. Instead, on the other side of Route 33 there are a spackling of caves. There are four caves in a line with each other that are 50'+ long. They all reside in sinkholes that have a linear relation to each other. There is a stream flowing through all of the sinkholes, and through

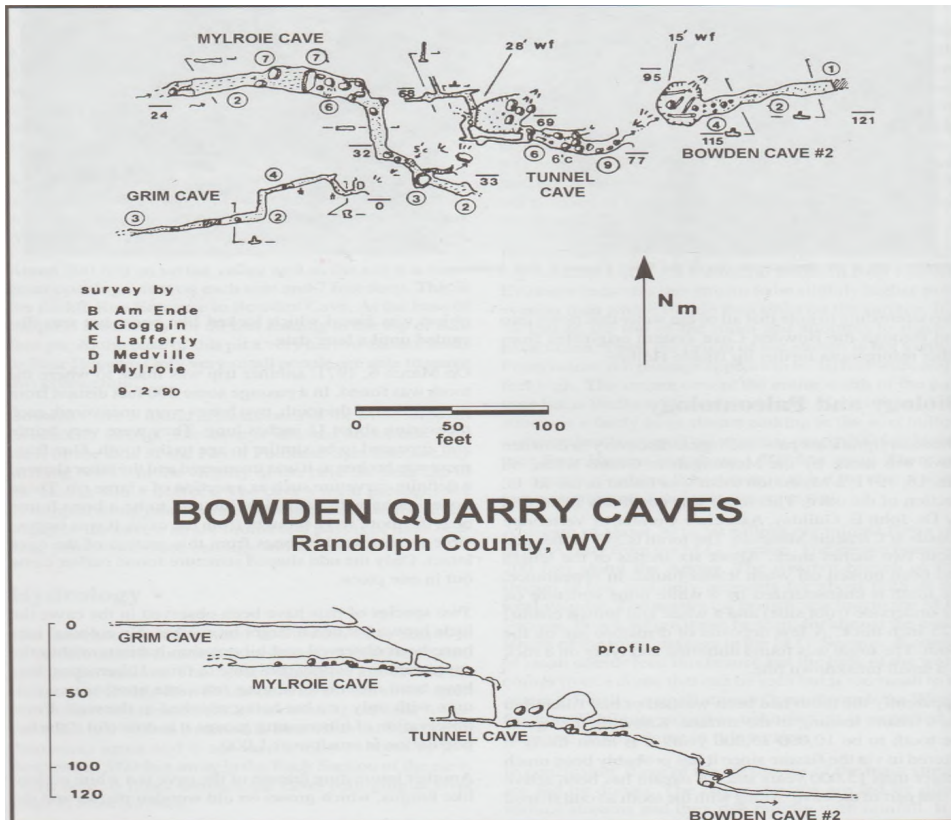
the separate caves. None of the caves exceed 300' in length

We parked the car and walked the half-mile trek to the caves, the first indicator that we were close was the sound of the 30' waterfall that falls into one of the sinks. The first one of the caves we went to is called "Tunnel Cave," it is at the bottom of the largest sink, and is the most spacious of the caves. The cave is aptly named and has a "through" trip, which may last under a minute.

so we took mercy on them and headed back to the car.

For me, this side trip brought me 4 new caves, and it gave me a chance to talk to some of the new cavers one-on-one while in a tough setting. They all did well. Both newbies that were on this little side trip have returned to grotto meetings and continue to show interest in caving.

-Shawn



Maryland Now Has a Hundred Foot Pit

If someone had suggested to me the possibility of Maryland ever having a deep pit, I would have thought they'd banged their head on one too many stalactites. Of course I probably would have said the same thing about a 500-foot-deep cave within the states boundary, and yet in western Allegany County Tanglefoot will approach or exceed that figure when the upper level passages are finally surveyed. Not far from Tanglefoot the state can now boast of possessing a hundred foot plus pit, one of only three found in the eastern U. S. north of the Virginias.

Below this cave, in the sink below, there is a cave called Bowden #2 Cave. It is about a 150' stream crawl. It does not get nicer or larger the deeper you go. The last of the caves we would see was Mylroie Cave. This cave is located above the sink containing Tunnel Cave. The cave has about 250' of passage and a few places with standing room. There are two entrances very close to each other. The cave alternates between stream crawlways and negotiating breakdown. The cave is lightly decorated. This cave, like Bowden #2, ends when the ceiling meets the stream bed. There is another cave, located above Mylroie Cave, called Grim Cave, but the others were starting to get tired,

The saga begins several years back. There are a couple of shallow pits in an abandoned quarry called Leo's quarry on Andy's Ridge (Andy's Ridge is part of the Allegheny Front just south of Corriganville in western Allegany County) known as Maple Pits 1&2. Corey Hackley sent me the following account from Donnie Carns. "An old fellow by the name of Getson worked in a quarry on Andy's Ridge when he was young. He said the quarry was shut down because they hit the top of a 200-foot pit. We always assumed it was Leo's quarry. Getson seemed to think that also. Getson claimed that there was a hole in Leo's quarry that at one time, a fire was built in front of it and the smoke came out further south on the ridge but he was not specific."

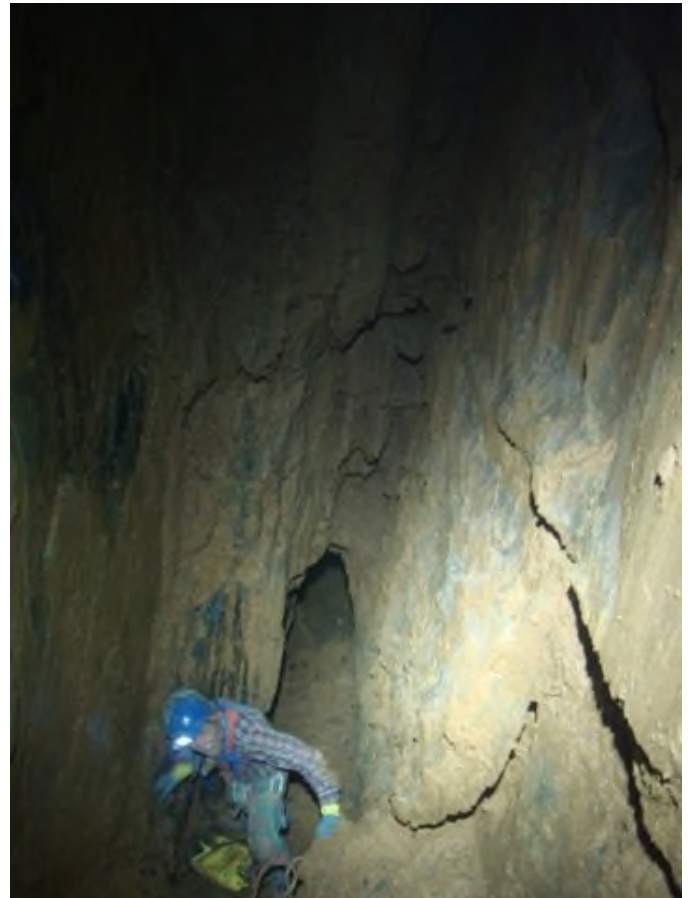
Corey took me to the Maple Pits a few years ago. Maple Pit #1 is two drops of 13 and 34 feet, while Maple Pit #2 is 28 feet deep, both a far cry from the rumored 200-foot depth.



On February 5th, 2015 during a late night ridgewalk with neighbors Michael and Sera Weaver, Corey found a small blowing hole high on Andy's Ridge about a mile from the quarry containing the Maple pits. Corey sent me the following report on their discovery. "My neighbors and I parked at Dollar General. It was 11 degrees that night and we were later nearly arrested when the store clerk mistook my helmet for an improvised explosive device of some sort. We found the pit around midnight (choked of course) and had finished dealing with the police by about 2 in the morning."

Corey goes on to state that two days later (Feb 7th) we returned to the steaming hole that my neighbors and I had located on Andy's Ridge on Thursday evening. The hole is in the floor of an old quarry about half way up the ridge.

After arriving at the site, we wasted no time moving a couple of rocks away from the entrance and enlarging the hole. At the top, the opening was bedrock on all sides, heavily confining mobility as soon as the dig surface was two feet below grade. Consequently, digging had to be done hanging upside down. After about an hour of cursing and chucking rocks out of the hole, larger rocks started dropping into the opening, yielding a 2x1 foot opening into an 8-10-foot drop. We tied a piece of webbing to a nearby tree and I slipped in.



At the base of the drop, the passage began to descend through solutional pendants and features at an angle of about 45 degrees. It was reasonably spacious. The floor, ceiling, and walls were all bedrock. After about 20 feet of this, I was peering through a hole which appeared to be a vertical drop, though because of my vantage, I could not see down the opening. A rock test yielded impressive results.

I climbed down a little further, and found myself braced over a deep pit. The walls were about 2 1/2 feet apart, and below me, the pit went down at

least 30 feet before curving gently out of view. It sounded like rocks were only about halfway done their journey when they disappeared from sight. It sounded as if they ended with a roll, and there was a pretty good echo with the last thud. From these data, I guess the pit is at least 50' deep, and possibly as deep as 80-90'."

I was skeptical when Corey related to me the details of his discovery, claiming a depth of possibly as much as 90 feet. The previous deepest pits in Maryland were just a couple of sketchy 30ish footers. On February 24th, 2015 Corey and I, along with Dave Schoenadel and Donnie Carns, returned to explore the pit.

As per Corey's earlier account it started out as an essentially vertical downclimb with a squeeze near the top. Dave and Donnie stayed topside to run the tape. I'd only brought a one-hundred-foot reel. The climbdown totaled 28 feet to the actual lip of the pit. I placed a rope pad here and Corey started down with the dummy end of the tape, fed by Dave from the top. The tape played out to 90 feet and Corey reported that he still had quite a bit of Darkness below him. Realizing that the tape was not going to reach from the top, I relayed back up to Dave to lower the spool down to me so I could put the entire hundred feet of tape in the pit if needed. Corey finally reached a landing and the tape read 94 feet. This was hard to believe! When I went down Corey informed me that he'd placed the end of the tape at the top of a vertical talus pile. We taped it very conservatively knowing that we'd be bringing Marion here soon. Figuring that Marion would insist the tape be positioned as high as possible, I concurred with Corey that the tape was at the same place Marion and I would have used. We also did a quick measurement to the bottom of the cave, determining a total depth of 139'. The 28' climbdown at the top had hardly any horizontal offset to the lip of the pit, and the pit was sheer to the landing at 94', so this is a nearly vertical cave. In keeping with the "foot" theme (Tanglefoot), we decided to call it Turkeyfoot Pit due to the abundance of turkey tracks in the snow that day.

On August 10th, 2017, Corey and I returned with Marion O. Smith, Sharon Jones, and Shawn Hogbin. Things sure were a lot different on the mountain in high summer than they had been when Corey and I were here two and a half years ago in

the winter. Thick brambles of blackberry thorns, multiflora rose, and intertwining vines made for nearly impenetrable barriers in many places, and visibility was limited. I give Corey the "Alan Cressler Award" for finding hidden holes on a mountainside. Alan is a TAG friend of mine who seemed to have an uncanny knack for locating (in the days before GPS) impossibly obscure cave entrances under the worst circumstances.

All five of us descended the pit. Order down was Corey, Marion, me, Sharon, and Shawn. When I touched down on top of the talus, I inquired of Corey if this was where we'd measured it from before. Marion piped up "why didn't you tape it from down there?" (indicating the bottom of the vertical talus).

I answered, "because I figured you'd give me grief over it".

Marion quipped, "Well, I think you should measure it from down there."

Since you had to be on rope to get up and down the vertical talus, Corey and I both agreed with Marion's assessment, which now makes Turkeyfoot a 103' pit. Only two other pits over one hundred feet deep are currently known to exist north of the Potomac River in the northeast. Red Mountain Pit in Vermont is the deepest at 164' and the first pit in Big Ridge in Pennsylvania is a sloping 123' drop.



Turkeyfoot Pit is certainly a legitimate hundred-footer, but it is not destined to be a classic. As surface pits go, it is a bit challenging. The pit itself is not too bad, but the constriction at the top of the 28' climbdown presents an obstacle. The

verticalness of the climbdown makes being on rope advisable for the extrication process, so the pit needs to be rigged from the surface. Confined conditions and a scarcity of footholds makes squeezing back up through the vertical slot daunting. A slip here could catapult you back down to the lip of the actual pit, so safety mandates staying attached to the rope, but every piece of gear also makes the tight spot even worse. On our August trip we erred by having all five of us at the bottom at the same time. As seems typical of caves on the Allegheny Front it is cold, with temperature estimates in the high forties Fahrenheit. Due to the difficulties of negotiating the pinch at the top, our climbing times were slow and some of us got chilled after waiting well over an hour on the bottom. There is also the likelihood of low oxygen levels if too many people are in the cave simultaneously. During our initial exploration back in winter 2015 Corey and I had no problems with just the two of us, but with five of us and extended wait times in August 2017, most of us were just not feeling up to par when we reached the top. I know I had breathing difficulties as I struggled at the top, as did Sharon, Shawn, and especially Marion (Corey probably not so much). I'm not saying the air was noticeably bad as I have experienced in some caves and pits over the years, but there was something not quite right.

The difficulties associated with accessing Turkeyfoot Pit will most likely keep visitations by cavers to a minimum, but it is a significant discovery, especially for the western Maryland area. Once again, kudos to Corey and his group for another fine effort. (All photos provided by Corey Hackley)

Terry McClanathan (NSS 12103)

Resurvey of Indian River Cave

Indian River Cave was one of the first caves I had ever been to, with my father. As a kid, my imagination ran wild in the cave, picturing all of the uses a Native American could have got from the cave. It was one of the first caves I went to once I was able to drive myself. I was taught how to use a compass and inclinometer, a sketch book, and the

basics of survey in Indian River. I decided it would be a great a cave for me to further my skill by mapping it. It is a short cave, and fairly simple. The access to the cave was easy.

I will spare most of the details how the mapping took place, and will touch on the essential points. I re-surveyed the cave with a large amount of help from Tom Griffin. He brought gear and at the end of the survey, the holy DistoX. The survey was completed in three short trips, spread over several months. The remaining time of the project was spent with a computer. A lot of time was spent learning Compass. Compass helped to produce the cave outline and stats for the cave. The second half of the journey was spent learning Adobe Illustrator. Thanks almost solely to the help of online tutorials put up by the Utah Grotto, I was able to figure out how to produce a map.

I learned some important lessons, through the whole experience, but all of it was very refreshing. As soon as I finished the map based on the information I gathered I started to think of things for next time. The arrow oriented North should be at a 180° or 90° angle, and the map should be oriented in respect to that. Also, while surveying, I need to map sure to take note of the shape of the passage, so I can create cross section views. These lessons are only the surface. I am looking for my next Eastern Panhandle mapping project. If there are any caves that desperately need mapped, or re-mapped, please send suggestions my way. Any comments or suggestions regarding the map are welcomed. I hope you enjoy the map.

Thanks everyone

-Shawn Hogbin



Indian River Cave:

Berkeley County, WV

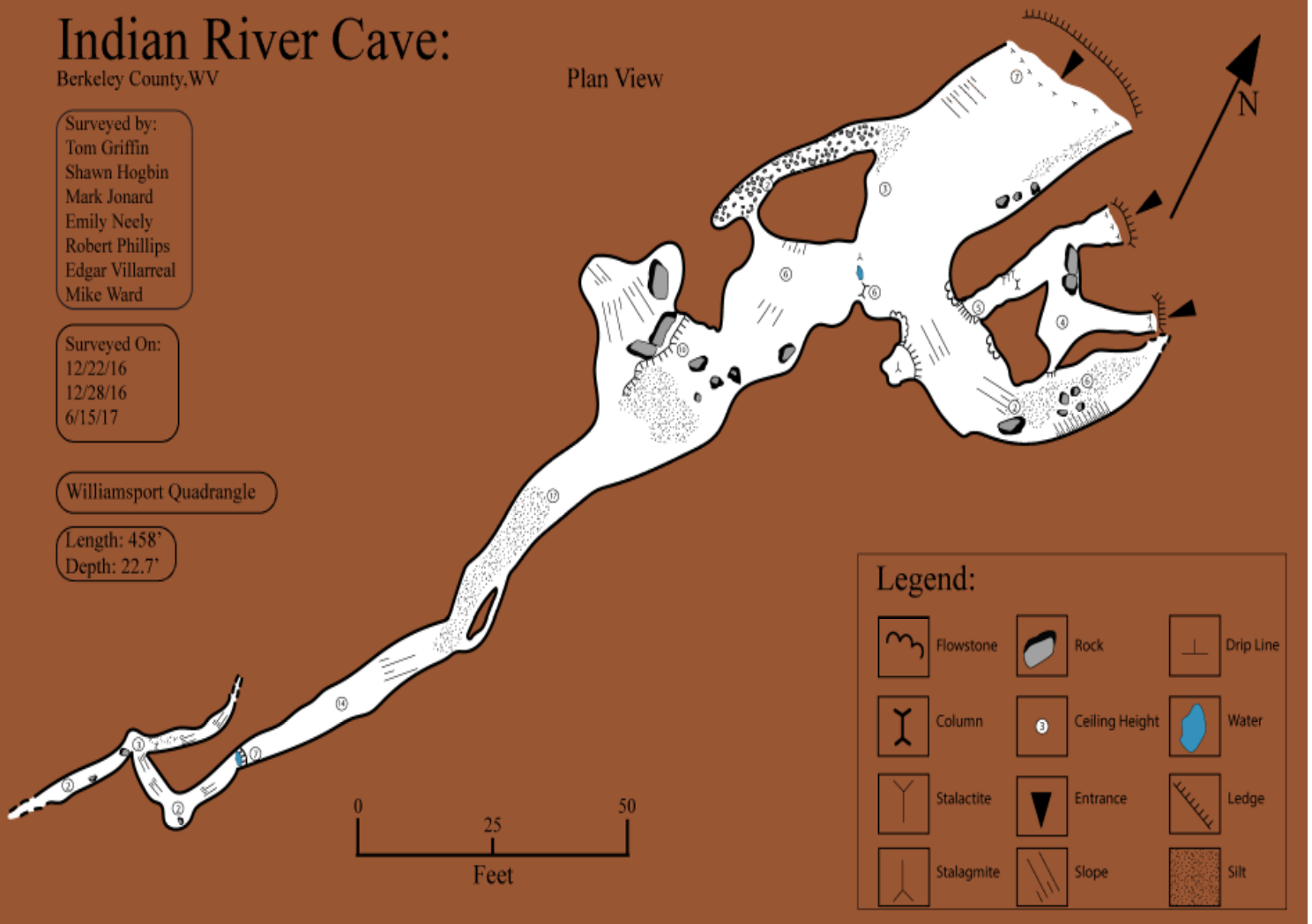
Surveyed by:
Tom Griffin
Shawn Hogbin
Mark Jonard
Emily Neely
Robert Phillips
Edgar Villarreal
Mike Ward

Surveyed On:
12/22/16
12/28/16
6/15/17

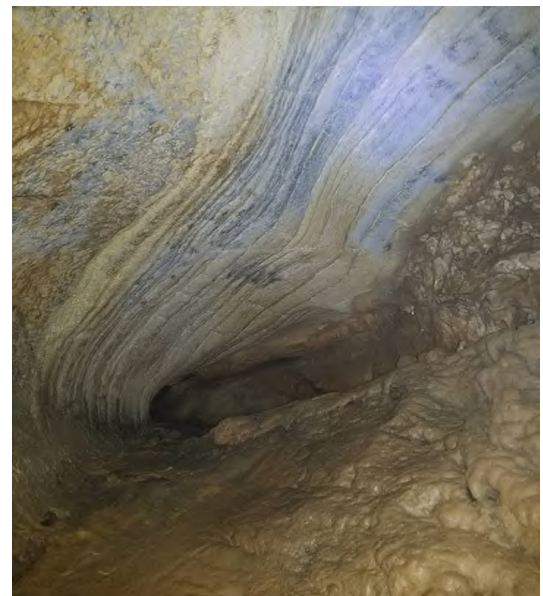
Williamsport Quadrangle

Length: 458'
Depth: 22.7'

Plan View



Whitings neck (by Tom Griffin)



Whitings Neck (by Tom Griffin)

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V.#32

I.#10

OCT

2017

#131



Bob crawling out from under a rock in Dyers Cave
(by Tom Griffin)



Dave's artwork!



Looking down the pit in Adam Stephens (by Bob Bennett)



A shot of Dave in front of the entrance to Dyers using his drone.





Bill Jackson in Jones Quarry (by John DiCarlo)



CAVIN CALENDAR

OCTOBER 8TH - NOVEMBER 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 8 TAG FALL CAVE-IN, AL	Oct 9 COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 10	Oct 11  TSG MEETING 7PM AUCTION	Oct 12	Oct 13	Oct 14 Adam Stephen dig 9:20 am Sinkhole cleanup near Melrose, VA - 9am
Oct 15 Survey Indian Knife Cave - Greenbrier Co, WV - see Tom	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21 BRIDGE DAY
Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24	Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28 New River Cave - see Janet Tinkham
Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3	Nov 4
Nov 5	Nov 6	Nov 7	Nov 8  TSG MEETING 7PM Nominations	Nov 9	Nov 10	Nov 11
Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18

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Polyester Power Hour 2017 (Photo by John DiCarlo)



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