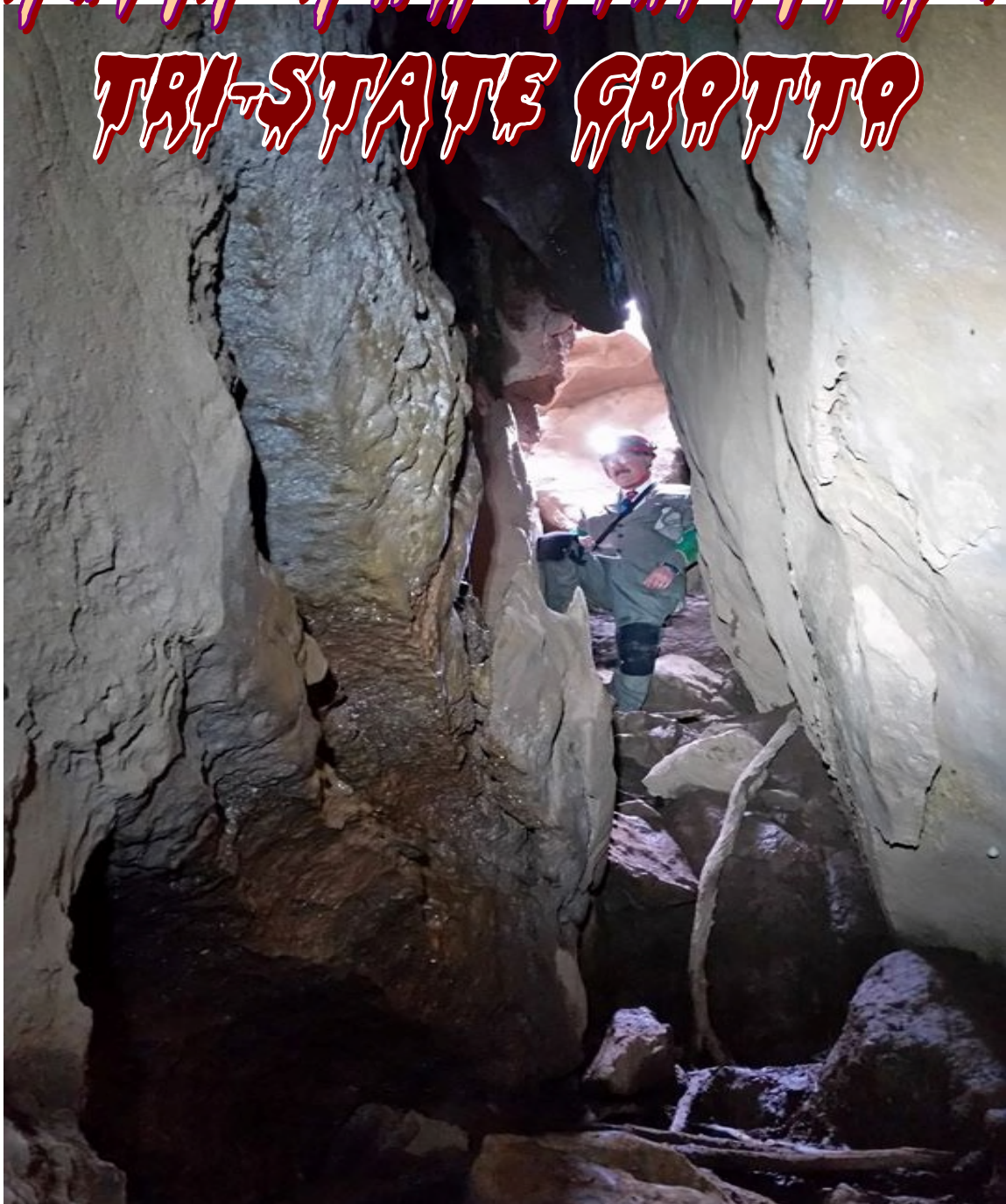


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**JOHN DICARLO IN STILLHOUSE CAVE
RANDOLPH CO, WV (PHOTO BY LAUREN MCCOY)**

VOL. #32

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2017

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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.

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** The cover this month was taken by Lauren McCoy in Stillhouse Cave, Randolph 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 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 HAVE 6 POSITIONS OPEN! PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



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CAVING EVENTS

Keep It Coming!

2017

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

AUG 31 --- SEP 4 - OTR
SEP 2 ---- Polyester Power Hour Trip - 1pm
SEP 2 ---- Doo Dah Parade - 730pm
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
DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE

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 SEPTEMBER

Richelle Barber, Twila Bracken, Matthew Majtyka,
Morgan Majtyka, Ann Muldoon, Beau Ouimette,
Nathan Rosser, Sarah Sassler, Cheryl Sutor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



***** 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----- \$22.01

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6665.51

The money was sent to SCCI.

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TSG Meeting 8/9/17

Attendance: 15

John brought the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Poles are OK for OTR.

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

Doc talked about the house in Baker. We can use it but it still needs some work.

The Adam Stephen dig was Sat, July 15th. We hauled out 203 buckets of dirt!

Bob had a role in the weekly TV series "Ghosts of Shepherdstown". It aired on Aug 7th at 10 pm on Destination America.

We had 40 people at the Annual Grotto picnic on August 5th.

Christmas party is Sat, Dec 16th from 6pm until 11pm.

We had a vertical practice after the July meeting. It was brought up that we need descending equipment, 6 more biners, 3 pulleys, webbing & slings for rigging. The next practice is Wed, Sep 30th at James Rumsey at 6pm.

New Business: We will be heading to Winders Cave in MD on Wed, Aug 16th.

We will be at the Scout Camp Rock Enon near Winchester for a Powder Horn demonstration on Sat, Aug 26th at 9am.

We will be at Baker Quarry to work on the gate again on Sat, Aug 12th at 9am.

Bob talked about another closed cave trip. We cannot post pictures on any social media nor can we post pictures in our newsletter. The trip will be Wed, Aug 3rd. The people here at the meeting are the lucky ones to be invited on the trip.

Trips: doc talked about the Boyles Cave trip. There were 24 people on the trip!

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.

Cave Bucks: \$20.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Bennett

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Something New for Everyone: by Shawn Hogbin

In my short caving career, I have had the pleasure of caving in the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, and largely across the great state of West Virginia. Until now I had never ventured to the state of Indiana, so when Terry McClanathan asked me if I would join him on a trip to Indiana's Cave Capers, I jumped on the chance. The trip was scheduled for August 4th through 6th. After parting from my family after a dinner in Hagerstown, I met Terry for the start of the trip around 8pm. From Hagerstown, the trip to Indiana is almost equal in respect to time and mileage as a trip TAG. The road trip would go through the night and into the next morning. Terry, with his ability to drive through the night, paired with my difficulty sleeping in a moving vehicle results in a trip filled with stories and enjoyable commentary. With a few gas station stops along the way we managed to cross the Indiana line around 4 am, at this point we stopped for a power nap. Once awakening at 6 am, we were only a few miles from our

destination of Corydon, IN. We pulled into the campground shy of 6:30 and Terry was able to locate Marion Smith's truck, who was excitable when awoken at such an appropriate hour. From here we marched our way into a restaurant chain I was not familiar with: Big Boy. The notable take away from Big Boy restaurants is that they have a breakfast buffet.

After breakfast, we met up with Elliot Stahl. Our first goal of the day was to remeasure Whooping Dome in Hell's Hole. Elliot and his brother Tristan had climbed higher into the pit and believed that had broken 100 feet. Whooping Dome, before Elliot and Tristan climbed it was believed to be 62'. The walk to Hell's Hole started in a small field and followed a few logging trails. The entrance to Hell's Hole is very obvious, and has a large tree right at the rim of the pit. The entrance to Hell's Hole is 102' and at the bottom of the pit there is a small climb-down that leads in to a stream crawlway. The climbdown was made more enjoyable by the always pleasant scent "*dead chipmunk*." Our group heading back to Whooping Dome consisted of Terry, Marion Smith, Sharon Jones, Elliot Stahl and myself. The stream-crawlway is only a few hundred feet, and leads to a nice muddy stoop passage. The muddy passage has some water pools. We were not in the muddy passage too long before we stepped out into the Whooping Dome. Whooping Dome is confusing to look at because you cannot quite tell how tall the dome is, the view upwards is obscured by the unnatural shape. Terry was the first to make it up the dome, and dropped his tape, while the rest of us waited at the bottom. The new measurement from the bolts reads 102'. Indiana got a new hundred-foot pit.

All of us were ready to climb this new hundred-footer. Myself, Marion and Sharon made our way up the pit, enjoyed each other's company for a short period of time and Terry was the first to head down. I quickly followed him. While Sharon was coming down we discovered the gravity still applies to rocks in the pit. After we all finished the pit, we made a quick exit. The short crawl trip back was followed by re-enjoying the chipmunk. Once back to the entrance pit I was the first of our small group to climb out. Everyone made a quick exit to the surface.

Terry now had his sights on Smiths Blowhole Cave. Elliot gave us directions to the cave, which was on the route back to the fairgrounds/campsite. After trying and failing to find Smiths Blowhole, we headed back. During our search we made sure to find many brambles and spider-webs, but no cave. Once we made it back to camp we ate the wonderful dinner at Cave Capers. After second-helpings we went back to the area of Smiths Blowhole, this time Terry and I were armed with coordinates and Elliot's GPS. We found the cave in a few minutes. The entrance to Smith's Blowhole is open and promising, but the cave does not stay that way for long. You immediately hop up into a chest-crawl that goes on for about 150'. The crawl was forgiving in some places, and was mostly open enough for coiled rope to make it through. The rope was needed for the 72' Farley Well. Terry was able to exercise the advantage of "The Snakes" over the Frog system in this cramped space. Terry rigged the rope and dropped Farley Well. I followed slowly afterward, after struggling with the lip. Once past the lip I was able to enjoy the open spaces of Farley Well. There is even a nice steady trickle of water that

decorates the pit. Terry and I hopped down into the stream fissure passage and explored around for a few minutes. We didn't stay at the bottom very long, and I started to head up. Terry came up and de-rigged the rope and we started to crawl out. I started to recognize I was feeling fatigued and was motivating myself with the idea of the pop-up tent and a warm sleeping bag waiting for me at camp. Before I knew it, I stepped out into the 10pm Indiana night-sky.

Terry and I woke up a little early and ran over to a nice cave called Manhole Cave. The cave was named appropriately because the cave is part of a drainage system and is covered by a manhole. The cave is located right next to Highway 135. You have to climb down a concrete culvert that is 37' deep. There are iron rungs to assist you. On the way down you notice that flowstone has grown out of the concrete wall and was approaching the rungs. Once at the bottom of the culvert there is a small crawl and you emerge into the cave. The cave suffers from a lot of litter due to its use as a drainage system. However, the cave does hold its own little charm with some formations in the back part of the cave. The cave only has 200' of passage. As fast as we went into the cave we headed out.

After our short adventure we met up with Marion and Sharon, and headed over to the Big Boy for our breakfast. The goal for the remainder of the day was to cave in the area of Bordens Pit. The first thing we did was drive in to the land owner who directed us to his daughter. She lived on the neighboring property, and was in much closer proximity to the cave. Her husband took us up the hill behind her house, which had been logged a few years back. We took the logging trails almost directly to Bordens

Pit. The entrance drop is 43' and is a pleasant entrance drop, mainly because the room you drop in to is highly decorated with the classic speleothems. I was the last to go down out of the group of Terry, Marion and myself. Sharon did not have interest in coming to the pit given that she had already been there. I scampered up the natural slope in the middle of the room to get a better view of the pit and the formations. The other two quickly headed out and I was reluctant to leave because of how pleasant I found the cave to be. However, we had some other caves in mind. Once out of Borden's, we took a short detour to another karst feature on the mountain, but that was not a long ordeal either.

After traipsing around the mountainside for a short time, our group headed back down the mountain and headed past the house we had walked up past. We then made our way down the owner's driveway. Not far away from their driveway are two noticeable sinks. The larger one is filled with trash, the smaller one also has trash in it but has an opening that is home to a small metal ladder. Once you negotiate some of the brambles and the ladder you are in a smaller passage. You are given two ways to go, with the better option being the less obvious one to find, it heads back in the direction you had just dropped in from. The name of this cave is Saylor's Cave, which shares a name with the land owner. The cave is lightly decorated, mainly with flowstone formations. Saylor's Cave also has an in cave pit, which we did not know the measurement for. The pit is not far into the cave, and is not totally obvious because of a large gently sloping rock to the lip. Terry rigged as Marion and Sharon cajoled him playfully. Once Terry rigged the rope I was

the first to drop in. While I was rappelling I noticed that there was a monster sized boulder that has lodged itself square in the middle of the pit. It spans the diameter of the pit, and the alarming part of the boulder is that it only rests on 2 feet of clay on one side, and 6 inches of thin chert on the other side. All I knew was that I was not eager to be at the bottom of the pit when that thing came down. Topside of the pit the others were adjusting the rigging to make the lip easier to negotiate. Marion came down next followed by Sharon. While at the top, Terry dropped a tape so that we would have a measurement for our records and the pit came out to be 54'. We all did not have an interest in sticking around at the bottom of the pit, and we ascended in the order that we had come down.

We emerged to a light rain. With the rain starting and it looking like there was only more on the way, we called it a day. Terry and I loaded up into his car and made our way back to the interstate. The trip back to Hagerstown had as many enjoyable stories and moments as the trip to Indiana. We returned back home a few hours earlier than anticipated when we first left for the weekend. Within the next 24 hours I would be packing up my car for my trip to Morgantown, to start my junior year at WVU.



Entrance to Hell's Hole, Indiana.



Terry at the entrance of Smiths Blow-hole Cave

Grant County Gallivanting by Shawn
Hogbin

After getting a good look at a Grant County book I knew I had to stop making trips just to Elkhorn Mountain, and explore the county a bit. I planned a trip to Grant County, WV and held it in my back pocket until I had a good weekend to go after it. I had a plan for 6 caves. I would only manage to get into 4 of them.

The trip down started late. The group was only made up of myself and two others, Edgar Villarreal and Emily Neely. Our path of travel was from Morgantown, down past Deep Creek Lake, and from there to Mt. Storm. The first cave on our list was Kessel Cave. The walk to the cave was full of sinkholes and promising features. I knew this cave had two entrances, one horizontal, through a stream bed and a separate vertical entrance. I stumbled into the stream and followed it to a very tall limestone rock face. I looked down into where the stream disappeared. Due to flooding or heavy rain of some sort, the entrance has been silted shut. We did not plan on doing any vertical work this trip, so we did not have the proper gear to collect the cave. Our group returned to the car, only fueled by the excitement of at least being able to find the entrance.

I was more optimistic about the second cave on the list, Mays Gap Cave. When I saw the location of this cave it brought me some humor, because in my trips around the state I can remember driving through Mays Gap thinking “there must be a cave around here somewhere.” The cave is very easy to find and has a nice pull off for a car. To get to the cave you have to hop over Lunice Creek, and there are two holes in the cliff face in front of you. One entrance is a vertical slit in the cliff, the

other is a round hole. They connect to each other only a few feet in. Not far from where the paths connect is a nice place to stand. This is the last point in the cave where one can really stand, from there it is hands and knees crawling or stooping. The cave is a short 193’, but it would not be the shortest cave we do that day.

From Mays Gap we quickly drove in to Petersburg for some gas and a quick bite to eat. We then retraced our steps back to Jordan Run Road, where our next two targets lay. The first of the targets was Klines Gap Cave, which is an enjoyable 1665’. Finding this cave was pretty easy, on account it must be a local favorite. There were many small foot trails leading to the entrance. The entrance is also located in a limestone cliff face. The cave starts as a crawlway and after a few feet it is possible to stand. While in the crawlway we enjoyed the company of two deceased raccoons. They spread their aroma all around the immediate area, and they had not been dead long because many identifiable features could be seen. Anyway, the cave opens into a large L shaped room. There are a few passaged off to the side, and are pleasant to explore. At the back of the L-shaped passage, there is a duck under. Once past this, the cave continues and then quickly gives you an option to drop into lower passage. We took that opportunity and were able to get to the stream passage at the bottom of the cave. As quick as we got down there we started our journey upward. At the top of the climb-down I could see where there was more passage beyond our drop, but the muddy conditions made me cautious of making the odd transition into the ongoing passage.

The group turned around and head out the cave, exploring the side passages on our way out. The cave suffers from a lot of litter and vandalism. There are even 3 unopened water bottles sitting in the middle of the passage. Our group packed out what our pockets could hold but we barely made a dent. We exited the cave, bid farewell to the fallen raccoons and successfully made it back to the car.

The next target was also along Jordan Run Road and was called "Slide Cave." Our group drove to the nearest pull off and started to head in the direction the GPS told us. Very quickly, something didn't feel right, and I knew we were off our mark. I called off the hunt. (Upon returning back to my apartment, I noticed that I had improperly copied GPS locations, throwing us off by over a mile.) This would be the second and final mishap of our trip.

The next two caves were close to each other and would be done in one big swoop. First was Little Huey's Cave, located in Cabins, WV. It was a short hike from the road. The cave is very short, only mustering 55'. The cave has two low-ceiling rooms, one of which is the first room you slide in to, the other is joined to the large room by a tight squeeze. The second room is the "well decorated" section, with some flowstone and one 2-foot column. Due to the size of the cave we only went in one at a time.

The last cave of the day was located almost directly across the valley from Little Huey's Cave, this cave was called Cedar



Large flowstone formation & notched log in Cedar Hill Cave



Picture 1: Flowstone formation in Cedar Hill Cave

Hill Cave. Cedar Hill Cave is a fine cave for only being 350' long. The entrance is large and steep but tricky to find. It hides almost in plain sight. Ed was sitting 50' from the cave and did not suspect it even to be close. This is partly because of the temping limestone outcroppings up the hill from the cave and also down the valley from the cave. Once on top of the entrance it is easy to feel foolish for missing it. The entrance is filled with leaves and other debris, and some creature has been storing mushrooms in one of the cracks near the entrance. There were over 20 mushrooms sitting in the crack. Picture 2: Large flowstone formation & notched log in Cedar Hill Cave

The ceiling of the cave goes very high, very quickly and you get to stand most of the cave. There are two climb downs, where notched logs have been placed in order to make the cave easier to traverse. The logs are in a poor state now and could break at any time. I would not recommend trusting them with your full body weight. The cave is decorated nicely with flowstone, with one section coating the wall from the

very high ceiling to the floor. There are also some soda straws in the cave, but they suffered the all too common fate of soda straws, and very few of them are longer than 5". The cave has 4 nice rooms, and the whole cave can be seen very quickly. It all ends in a mud plug in a stoop way. The mud in this section was very wet and this is likely where the cave drains from.

The exit of the cave did not take long, however the leaves did prove to be a noteworthy advisory while making the steep



The entrance to Cedar Hill Cave

climb out. Once getting back to the car, our group headed back into Petersburg for some

victory ice-cream from Dairy Queen. Our plans for the evening were to drive to Seneca Rocks and camp nearby. After getting our tents set up, and all settled in it was only 9pm. The whole group being restless decided our best option was to drive back to Morgantown that night. We packed up the tents we set up only minutes before. We managed to make it back to Morgantown at a reasonable hour. The whole trip took place in 12 hours.

Photo Gallery



(Photo by John DiCarlo)



(Photo by "Dave from the Cave")



(Photo by Lauren McCoy)



Stillhouse Cave (Photo by Mike Ward)



Stillhouse (Mike Ward)



Powder Horn (Photo by Tom Griffin)



Small caves along Shenandoah River (Photo by Bonnie Zampino)



CAVIN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 10TH - OCTOBER 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 10	Sep 11 PATRIOT DAY	Sep 12	Sep 13  TSG MEETING 7PM	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16 DYERS CAVE - SCOUTS 10AM
Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20	Sep 21	Sep 22 AUTUMN EQUINOX FALL VAR - MT INSTITUTE, SPRUCE KNOB, WV	Sep 23 FALL VAR - MT INSTITUTE, SPRUCE KNOB, WV
Sep 24 FALL VAR - MT INSTITUTE, SPRUCE KNOB, WV	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28	Sep 29	Sep 30
Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4	Oct 5 TAG FALL CAVE-IN, AL	Oct 6 TAG FALL CAVE-IN, AL	Oct 7 TAG FALL CAVE-IN, AL
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
Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21 BRIDGE DAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Polyester Power Hour 2017 (Photo by John DiCarlo)

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