

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



42' SANTAS CHIMNEY, JEFFERSON CO, WV

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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
or can be SENT TO:

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**** The photo on this month's cover was taken by Tom Griffin using Bob Bennett's phone. It shows Dave 'From the Cave' Lucas rappelling the newly rediscovered 42' Santas Chimney.**

****** 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 plus the cost of shipping!

*******10 LEFT!*******

WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL HAVE 4 POSITIONS OPEN! PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!



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CAVE EVENTS

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

2018

JUL 30-AUG 3 --- NSS Convention – Helena, MT
AUG 4 ---- Speleo Saturday weekend – Hamilton &
Key Caves – see Doc

AUG 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

AUG 10-12 --- MAKC Free Caving weekend –
Bedford, PA

AUG 13 --- LEFT HANDER'S DAY

AUG 15 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey – 6pm

AUG 25 --- Kayak trip to Baker Quarry – See Brent
Jefferson for details

AUG 30-SEP 3 --- OTR

SEP 1 --- Polyester Power Hour – OTR Dress Up
Trip to a local cave

SEP 1 --- WVASS Fall meeting at 630p – Lutz
Rock, OTR

SEP 3 --- LABOR DAY

SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY

SEP 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

SEP 19 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey – 6pm

SEP 21-23 -- Fall VAR, New River Junction, VA

SEP 22 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX

SEP 28-30 --- Fall MAR – Rupert Cave, PA

OCT 5-7 --- Fall TAG Cave-In – Westfork in Little
River, AL

OCT 8 --- Columbus Day

OCT 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Auction

OCT 17 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey – 6pm

OCT 20 --- Bridge Day

OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE
(HALLOWEEN)

NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY

NOV 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm- Nominations

NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkins Day

NOV 22 --- THANKSGIVING DAY

NOV 23 --- BLACK FRIDAY

DEC 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections

DEC 15 --- Annual TSG Christmas Party – 6pm
– Bedington Ruritan

DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE

DEC 24 --- CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the Conservancy of choice. The money **SHOULD NEVER** be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of JULY ----- **\$27.01**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6947.53

The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- www.varegion.org/
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2017 ----- <http://nss2017.caves.org/>
OTR ----- www.otr.org/
MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
Jerry's Cave Web Site ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>
Bob Gulden ----- www.caverbob.com/home.htm/
Rock Climbing Knots Friction ----- www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/
Tri-State Grotto MySpace ----- www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/
Animated Knots by Grog ----- www.animatedknots.com/
WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>
WNS ----- <http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>
Containment Procedures ----- <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>
Crystal Grottoes Caverns ----- www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF AUGUST

Matt Amundson, Jerry Bowen, Jim Cruse, John DiCarlo, Julie Garvin, Carol Jackson, David Knox, Shannon Miranda, Nina Rao, Jordan Walthers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REPORTS

TSG Meeting 7/11/18

John called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence: Jerry gave a report on the Free caving weekend sponsored by MAKC at Bedford, PA.

Bob talked about SCCI raising their dues.

Old Business: Grotto picnic will be Sat, July 14th starting at 12 noon on the C&O Canal.

Bob put out a report about the Grotto Library.

Doc gave a report on the poles.

Bob gave a report on the Jones Quarry Cleanup. Everything went very well. A lot of trash & metal was collected. The owner wants to have another cleanup this fall. Thanks to all who helped!

New Business: The Fall VAR will be Sep 22-24 in New River Junction near Blacksburg, VA.

Speleo Saturday Caving will be at Hamilton Cave near Franklin, WV – see Doc for specifics!

Keith Hammersla has been with the Adam Stephen organization for 25 years.

~~There will be another dig in Harman Cave on Sat, July 28th. (Cancelled)~~

Trips: Wed Night Caving was at Whittings Neck.

Elysia & Gary took part in a Cave Rescue class. They also went to Dead Dog Cave.

The next Vertical Session will be July 18th at 6pm at James Rumsey.

The next Wed Night Caving will be Jul 25th at 6pm – Big Column & Chapman Caves. Meet at Sheetz.

Tom rappelled into Crim Cave in VA, it was extremely muddy!

Bob & John are to meet to talk about the 501c3.

Cave Bucks: \$27.01 – sent to SCCI

John adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted

Paulette Bennett, Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

The Good, the Bad, and the Muddy

On July the twenty-fifth a group of cavers, both new and experienced, met at the Short and Charles Town Road Sheetz to gear up and get ready to visit Big Column Cave. It's a short drive to the cave and the parking was barely adequate but useable. Once geared up and rope tied at the entrance, we all took turns slipping down the hole and into the dark. The cave is small but is a breath-taking

sight at the first look once inside. Its safety first with caution to the environment being a close second (and to some it's the other way around - which is fine). The cave, still being 'new', is delicate. Apparently, someone has been digging in there but made the effort not to disturb the formations, although I still found the dig somewhat disturbing - invading but strangely interesting. A new tunnel leading to more cave would be an exciting prospect.

After exiting BCC, the group re-gathered at Chapman's Cave which is in the neighborhood. The entrance is a rock funnel. At the bottom is an opening which, even though effort has been made to make it more accessible, is still a tight squeeze. Not all of us made it in, but the few that did claimed the effort was not worth it. Never having visited the cave for reasons I shall not mention, I cannot critique the situation. The most disturbing report was that someone sprayed hate graffiti in the cave. I really hope that this is not the fate of BCC. I am not a fan of gates, but in this case, I hold my opinion in reserve. All in all- that was a fun night of caving.

A new addition to TSG is Speleo-Saturday. Caving in the panhandle is a fine and exciting resource but the need to expand and visit new caves in farther locations has generated an interest for quite a while. The monthly event can involve a day trip, weekend camping or hookups with other

organizations such as grottos or boy scouts.

The first Speleo-Event was held on August fourth and fifth at Hamilton Cave, making an opportunity to camp overnight in Thorn Springs Campground, if one desired, creating the opportunity of visiting more caves the next day. There wasn't a big turnout, I guess you have crawl before you can run, but the weekend was outstanding. The rain stopped just as I pulled into the campground and the night was dry and cool. Saturday was perfect in humidity and temperature. Being a small troop consisting of Philip and myself, we had a three-cave trip event to McCoys, Kee, and Hamilton Cave. We explored more of the front maze In Hamilton including the Mud Room and the back maze making it a four-hour trip.

In conclusion:

The good: Large group for Big Column Cave - around a dozen or so. Small group for Speleo-Saturday. Weather for both events was good if not outstanding. They were all successful trips with no adversity.

The bad: Graffiti in Chapmans. Not being able to fit in the entrance of Chapmans. BCC may be lost in the near-future due to housing developments. Small group for Speleo-Saturday. The graffiti is the big one.

The muddy: Mud was involved in all events.

Truly: Doc Phillips



All photos submitted by Doc



Hamilton



Hamilton



Phillip in McCoys Mill Cave



Phillip Neighbour in Hamilton



Beautiful rainbow after the rain

Fellow of the NSS

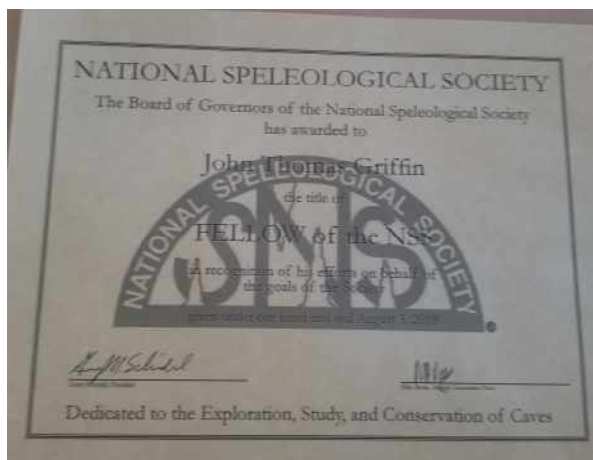
Each year the NSS accepts nominations for persons who you feel has contributed a lot to the NSS through his actions, participation in events, etc.

The Fellow award is typically given to members who have contributed to the NSS over a period of years. A good nomination letter should be no more than two pages in length and contain hard-hitting facts about what the member has done to warrant the award. Your nomination letter should be filled with "meat" and not "filler." Tell what the member has done (cause and effect) and paint a clear picture for the Awards Committee members.

This year TSG has added another member to the long list of Fellows!

Congratulations to Tom Griffin who was accepted as Fellow of the NSS for 2018! Tom has been very active not only in our local TSG caving club, but he is also very active in the NSS as the Preserve & Acquisition Chairman, & the Land Owner Relations Eastern Region Vice Chairman.

Lets all congratulate Tom on for an honor well deserved!



Since we are on the subject of Fellows of the NSS, the following is a list of present & past members of TSG who are Fellows of the NSS:

CURRENT TSG MEMBERS:

Bob Gulden – 1982
Gordon Birkhimer – 2006
Janet Tinkham – 2007
Bob Bennett – 2008
Judy Fisher – 2009
Jerry Bowen – 2010
Pat Minnick – 2011
JC Fisher – 2012
Carol Jackson – 2016
Tom Griffin – 2018

PAST TSG MEMBERS:

Bill Jones – 1972
Dave Culver – 1974
Tommy Shifflett – 1984
Carol Tideman – 1987
Craig Hindman – 1994
Meredith Weberg – 2004
Ellie Florance – 2005
John Pearson – 2007
Larry Fisher – 2013
Allen Maddox – 2013

WOW! That is a total of 20 TSG members who are Fellows of the NSS! Looks as though TSG is a pretty prestigious group to belong to. Especially considering that TSG is young compared to most Grottos in the NSS!

Congratulations to all!!!



Tom rappelling into Santos Chimney – (Bob)



Dave climbing out (Bob)



Dave preparing to rappel Santos Chimney (Bob)



Tom C crawling into Cascade (Bob)



Dave 40' down on the bottom (Bob)



Cascade (Dave from the Cave)



CAVIN CALENDAR

AUGUST 5TH - SEPTEMBER 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 5 Speleo Saturday Weekend - see Doc	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8  MEETING 700 PM	Aug 9	Aug 10 MAKC free caving weekend - Bedford, PA	Aug 11 MAKC free caving weekend - Bedford, PA
Aug 12 MAKC free caving weekend - Bedford, PA	Aug 13 LEFT HANDER'S DAY	Aug 14	Aug 15  VERTICAL SESSION JAMES RUMSEY 6PM	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 18
Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25 Kayak trip to Baker Quarry - see Brent
Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29	Aug 30 OTR	Aug 31 OTR	Sep 1 OTR Polyester Power Hour dress-up trip - Noon WVASS meeting - Lutz Rock - 6pm
Sep 2 OTR	Sep 3 OTR LABOR DAY	Sep 4	Sep 5	Sep 6	Sep 7	Sep 8
Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11 PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12  MEETING 700 PM	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15

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Elysia posing at Sinks of Gandy (submitted by Elysia)



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