

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



By Billy Gibberson

**SCOTT HOLLOW CAVE, MONROE CO, WV**

**VOL. #33**

**ISS. #2**

**FEB**

**2018**

**#9**



**SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00** (*Non-Voting*)  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----**\$2.00/FAMILY  
**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ----** \$200.00  
**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ----** \$50/YEAR  
 (SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)  
 (FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)  
 (FAMILY ASSOCIATE-non NSS)(Voting over 16)

Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
 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](mailto: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](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)

**\*\* The cover this month is an ink scratch of  
 formations in Scott Hollow Cave by Billy  
 Gibberson.**

\*\*\*\* 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](mailto: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 5 POSITIONS OPEN!  
 PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR  
 SUPPORT!**



The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a publication of the  
**TRI-STATE GROTTTO** of the NSS. The OPINIONS  
 expressed herein are not necessarily those of the EDITOR, the  
 GROTTTO, nor the NSS. Material that is unsigned may be  
 attributed to the EDITOR. Material contained within this  
 PUBLICATION may be reproduced by the NSS and its  
 GROTTOS, provided that PROPER CREDIT is given to the  
**DEAD DOG DISPATCH** and the AUTHOR.

The **DEAD DOG DISPATCH** is a NON-PROFIT  
 monthly newsletter published by the **TRI-STATE GROTTTO  
 of the NSS**. SUBSCRIPTION RATES are \$12.00 per year to  
 SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS, and **FREE** with FULL and  
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS to the **TRI-STATE  
 GROTTTO**.

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

### TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR ----- John DiCarlo ----- 301-432-2323  
 V-CHAIR ----- Bob Bennett ----- 304-821-4621  
 TREASURER--- Jerry Bowen ----- 301-790-0476  
 SECRETARY -- Paulette Bennett --- 304-821-4621  
 Member At Large --- Tom Griffin --- 240-676-3184  
 Membership Chair --- Bob Bennett ---304-821-4621  
 Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ----304-821-4621  
 Conservation Chair-- --  
 P R Chair ----- --  
 Safety Chair -----  
 Program Dir -----  
 Funding ----- Paulette Bennett -----304-821-4621  
 Equip. Co-Chair -- Doc Phillips ----- 703-583-0390  
 Youth Chair ----

**TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS  
 FOLLOWS:**

**FULL MEMBERSHIP -----**\$10.00 (*Must be NSS*)  
**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---**\$12.00 (*Non-NSS*)

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#33**

**I.#2**

**FEB**

**2018**

**#10**

# CAVING EVENTS

## 2018

FEB 2 --- GROUND HOG DAY  
FEB 9-11 --- WVACS weekend  
FEB 10 --- Jones Quarry – Scout trip- 9:30 am – Tom  
FEB 13 --- FAT TUESDAY  
**FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY**  
FEB 19 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY  
**FEB 21 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**FEB 24 --- Adam Stephen dig – 930am**  
FEB 28 --- Vert session – James Rumsey – 630 pm  
MAR 7 --- Fox Skull Cave – 6pm  
MAR 9-11 --- WVACS weekend  
MAR 14 --- PI DAY  
**MAR 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
MAR 17 --- ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
MAR 30 --- GOOD FRIDAY  
**APR 1 --- EASTER**  
APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY  
APR 7 --- National Beer Day  
**APR 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
APR 13-15 --- WVACS weekend  
**APR 16 --- TAX DAY**  
**APR 17 --- BAT APPRECIATION DAY**  
APR 21-22 --- Grand Caverns restoration weekend  
– Contact Meredith Weeberg  
**APR 27-29 --- Spring VAR – Hungry Mother Retreat**  
MAY 1 --- MAY DAY  
MAY 3-6 --- 67<sup>th</sup> Annual SERA Cave Carnival – Scottsboro, AL  
MAY 5 --- CINDO de MAYO  
MAY 5 --- Spring WVASS meeting at 1pm – WVACS Field Station  
**MAY 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
MAY 11-13 --- WVACS weekend  
**MAY 12 --- Adam Stephen Day**  
**MAY 13 --- MOTHER'S DAY**  
MAY 25-28 --- Speleofest – Lone Star Pres, KY  
**MAY 28 --- MEMORIAL DAY**  
JUN 8-10 --- Bubble weekend  
  
JUN 8-10 --- WVACS weekend  
JUN 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY  
**JUN 17 --- FATHER'S DAY**  
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
**JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**JUL 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**JUL 14 --- Annual TSG Picnic**  
JUL 14-15 --- WVACS Classic - see Dave Sockey  
JUL 30-AUG 3 --- NSS Convention – Helena, MT  
**AUG 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**AUG 30-SEP 3 --- OTR**  
SEP 1 --- WVASS Fall meeting at 630p – Lutz Rock, OTR  
**SEP 3 --- LABOR DAY**  
**SEP 11 --- PATRIOT'S DAY**  
**SEP 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
OCT 5-7 --- Fall TAG Cave-In – Westfork in Little River, AL  
OCT 8 --- Columbus Day  
**OCT 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
OCT 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY  
OCT 20 --- Bridge Day  
OCT 31 --- ALL HALLOWS EVE (HALLOWEEN)

### \*\*\*\*\* 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 JANUARY ----- \$20.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6775.52

The money was sent to SCCI.

Keep It Coming!

## WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#33**

**I.#2**

**FEB**

**2018**

**#11**



Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
 VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
 NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
 NSS Convention 2017 ----- <http://nss2017.caves.org/>  
 OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
 MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
 WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
 Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
 Jerry's Cave Web Site -----  
 ----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
 Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
 Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----  
 ----- [www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/)  
 Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----  
 ----- [www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/)  
 Animated Knots by Grog ----- [www.animatedknots.com/](http://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](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)



## MONTH OF FEBRUARY

Daniel Amundson, Erek Bennett, Paulette Bennett,  
 Michael Cosey, Tyler Cosey, Jasmine Dixon, Terri  
 Griffin, Adam Haines, Malakai Hanson, Jennifer  
 Haines, Todd Zimmerman

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## TSG Meeting 1/11/18

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

*New Business:* John named the officers that were  
 elected for 2018. He also names the appointed  
 positions and the appointed positions to be filled.  
 Doc gave a report on the canopy poles & rust  
 prevention.

Doc also gave a report on the condition of the  
 helmets.

Jerry talked about a lady who wants to go to  
 Donaldson Cave to see the Civil War signatures.  
 She told him about the signatures inscribed in the  
 rocks along the canal. Tom will get in touch with  
 her to 1<sup>st</sup> set a trip to see the signatures along the  
 canal & then set up a trip to show her the signatures  
 in the cave.

There was then a short (amusing) discussion about  
 maybe putting an ultra-violet light on our helmets  
 when we go caving to help fight WNS.

*Old Business:* The Feb TSG meeting falls on  
 Valentine's Day and we are moving the meeting  
 date to Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Then the next Adam Stephen dig  
 will be on the following Sat, Feb 24<sup>th</sup> starting at  
 9:30 am.

The 2017 TSG Christmas party was a huge success!  
 It was held at the Bedington Ruritan club and we  
 had 77 people attend the party! Let's break 100 at  
 the 2018 Christmas party!

Bob did not add any new books to the Grotto  
 Library list but he did make a new list and will also  
 add many PDF's of books that are downloadable  
 from the NSS. He also still has some old "NSS  
 News " from at least the early 1950's and maybe  
 even late 1940's. Hugh & Mellie Stabler had  
 donated these to the Grotto Library before they  
 passed away.

Trips: A scheduled trip to Dyers Cave was  
 cancelled due to bad weather since we had children  
 coming along on the trip.

Our Vertical sessions will begin at James Rumsey  
 starting Wed, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Our next vertical  
 session after that will be Wed, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

We will then have Wed Night Caving on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> to  
 Donaldson Cave to check out the signatures.

On Wed, Mar 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a Wed Night Caving  
 trip to Foxskull Cave.

Dave went to Porter Cave. The cave was extra dry.  
 Doc is going to Big Column Cave on Sat, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>.

Meet at Sheetz at 1:00 pm.

Cave Bucks: \$20.00 – It will be sent to SCCI.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#33**

**I.#2**

**FEB**

**2018**

**#12**

After the meeting everyone had came to celebrate the birthday of Tri-State Grotto. TSG is the ripe old age of 32 years old as of Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

## The MapY

You know how it is you go to the same cave and take the same route and you might venture off the well beaten path and do a little exploring. Well I have been going to Cross Roads Cave for over 20 years. When I first went it was all-new and exciting. Then after a few years and going to the same spots seeing the same passageways it starts to get stale. You take the newbie's and they ooooh and ahhh. But you have been there before. Well several months ago I was looking at the map of Cross Roads from the Caves of Virginia and I realized I have been missing a lot of cave. The map in the Caves of Virginia was published in the 60's and even though the map looks to be complete it is far from being complete. Well I 'took a look' and noticed a room on the map called the tombs now that sounds pretty cool, "the tombs".

I realized I have never been there, much less how to get there since the area it is in is a very mazy section of the cave. In October I helped lead a trip with RASS and at the beginning of the trip I told them of my plan of finding "the tomb". Well the group said yea let find it and do some more exploring. On the trip was Eric Berge, Venessa Ellison, Jeff Benford and a new caver that was nervous. Well first we through the front room with all the break down did the climb down into a small passage and did a quick chimney and there we were in the mazy section of the cave. Well right out of the gate there is a low passage off to the left and when you look on the map it is a square passage way. Once in the passage it turns out to be a nice square passage way that goes in a square. It has a lot different fossil on the walls it is just interesting. Back in the mazy area we

started poking our heads in all the different holes and cracks looking to the way to "the tombs", Well we poked our heads in a lot of passage ways and it got more confusing as we went. I found some initials that appeared to be cut into the wall that looked to be old I have don't think they are. Well after 2 hours we hit pay dirt we found a passage that looked like one of the passageways near "the Tombs". The cave had changed in its look and feel. If you have been in enough caves you know what I mean by the change. The passageways finally lined up with the map and there we were at the bottom of "the tombs". Well you start to climb a lot of breakdown and it is covered with a mud and the climb was a 30-foot slope up breakdown. At the top of the climb are large blocks of breakdown and we did have a great achievement of finding "the tombs" and it just doing something totally different. We were in the cave a little over four hours but only 15 minutes from the entrance.

The next trip back to Cross Roads Cave was right after Thanksgiving and my youngest son Earle was on this trip he was here for Thanksgiving from Virginia Tech. Well me, Earle Berge, Richie Ellison, and Venessa Ellison were on this trip. Into the front room we went, and I told them let's see everything in the front room. When you look at the map there is a passage way off to the left. This turned out to be a pretty neat passageway it is a little bit of crawling and has a few nice formations in the back, if you follow it around you come back out into the front room.

Next, we found a passageway in the main front room and what was interesting was a piece of wood near the passageway that had a hard type of purple/black fungus growing out of the wood, but the fungus was hard like a stick. There was a small hole in the floor that when you climbed into it you at the top of a 15-foot pit. Who knew Cross Roads had a small pit in near the entrance room. Well this is where as I was walking past the small opening I would roll my left ankle. Well the first thing you do is do not the boot off. Well I rolled this ankle 15 years ago in Newberry Bane and it has not been right since. Well I just kept caving moving a little slower. Out of the front room we go, and you have to go down a small climb. From the climb you make a right to go down a tunnel passage way and from there you do

chimney. Well I wanted to go left and look around what do you know there is a passage way going down on the left side of the wall you just climbed down. Earle and I went down and Richie and Venessa came next and what do you know we are at the bottom of the 15-foot pit that is in the main room. How interesting.

Well back out into the passage way and down the chimney we all went. We checked out the square passageway again thinking it would be a great passage way for Scouts. In to the mazy area we went. We were looking for "the tombs" again. But we decided to check out some of the leads we found. There was lot of squeezing and some climbing and I went down one area and found a white-water bottle in a stream passage. Stream passage near the Maze? There is one further into the cave but this close to the entrance. Well I asked Earle to go in and get the bottle and it was full of water. Well Earle decided to use it something else and I asked him before he put it in his pack are sure that is will not leak? Well we left it at one of our markers and he would pick it up later and carry it out.

Well most people don't know this, but Cross Roads is being resurveyed. We started getting into the cave that has a lot of survey markings and the cave changed again. A lot of break down and a lot of crawling a squeezing. Back into the maze we went again and Venessa found the correct passage way to "the tombs". Well my ankle was killing me, and I decided not to climb up to "the tomb". Venessa and Richie climb "the tombs" and checked out some future leads. Earle and I hung at the bottom where we found the skull of a bat and some wing bones. Well when Richie and Venessa came down we headed back out to the entrance and we were only at the most 20 minutes from the entrance. At this time of year, it is so funny climbing out of the cave and it nice and dark outside even though it is only 5:30pm. Well the trip was just great and a lot new to me passageway was explored, and we have not even been to a ¼ of the cave. So much more to see. So back to looking at the map and I realize the map is a great tool but exploring off the beating path is the adventure.



Photos by Eric Berge



# Donaldsons Cave

**Report and Pictures by John DiCarlo NSS# 25744**

**Little Georgetown, WV-**For Wednesday night caving Jan 24, 2018, Tri-State Grotto went to Donaldson Cave. This was also Tri-State Grotto's Birthday. So, it was a birthday trip too.

We met up at the gas station in Spring Mills and headed for the cave.

We parked and suited up. We had Doc, Phil Neighbor and his friend Jake, Andrew and Jena Imes and their two sons, and me.

As we walked across the moon-lit field, one of the kids was right behind me with his light on. Going back and forth with light and darkness blinded me. I turned to him and said would you like to go first? He jumped at the chance. He lead us on. I put him on the trail through the grass, pointed to the group of trees, and said, "that's where we are headed." He took us right there. Phil went down and, with help, unlocked the gate. One by one we slid in. As we were waiting our turn we saw someone pulling in the parking area. Doc went back to check on them and found Gary and Elisa. They soon joined us.



We made our way down the slope to where the passage narrows. Going down this, we stopped at the water line. It was not as deep as it was back on

the first day of spring, maybe five feet lower. We looked around and headed back out.



Turning left we headed down the passage to the Civil War Signatures. Passing that, we continued on following the wall to our right. Climbing out of the trench, we moved over the large rocks and down to a lower spot that goes to the big room. When the water level is higher in the bottom of the first room, then it is usually knee-deep at this point. With the water being five-foot lower at the bottom of the first room, we had a waterless crossing through here, although real muddy. Popping out into the largest room in the cave, we looked left and could see a large pool of water. It just didn't get to us.



We climbed up the slope and looked around as people caught up. When we had everyone, we

started squeezing through the connection to the back passage. We looked down and could see a pool of water below the connection in the passage that makes up the loop. From past trips we have learned that when there's water there, the loop-around passage would be flooded, so we wouldn't be able to do that.



As we waited for people to finish coming through, we took some pictures of people in front of the large flowstone formation here.



When we had everyone, we continued down the walking passage. We had to crawl through a pinch and popped out where the Sconce is on the left side of the room. We couldn't see the face in it this time.



We moved on to the back of the cave. Looking around, someone said, "here are some ice formations." We moved up to take a look. You could tell it felt cooler here in this part of the passage. There have always been stories about a back entrance. The past owner of the property, the person who the cave is named after, once told me there was a back entrance to this cave. Well, we found it. Looking up, it looked like it had been filled with stone. We could see frost on some of the rocks. We found the back entrance!



Now my thinking is, don't open it up as it is an unneeded entrance. We would just have to gate it, and it would change the air flow of the whole cave. We only need one entrance. But, it is nice to have found where the entrance was after all these years.





We changed and everyone headed their own way home. Great trip!



We checked out some other passages in this area, then turned our trip and started back to the known entrance.

As we made it to the top of the slope by the entrance, several people lead by Phil climbed into the other side of the loop-around passage. They wanted to see how far they could get that way. They didn't get too far, as in a few minutes they popped out from a side passage about 15 feet lower than the one they went in.



Gary and Elisa left us a note at the gate that they had headed back, and at this point so did the rest of us. Walking back across the field, we made our way back to our cars. We were getting some snow flurries.

Ground Hog Cave (Gary Mathias)





Sinkhole Cave (Gary Mathias)



Teapot Cave (Elysia Mathias)



Teapot Cave (Elysia Mathias)



Sinkhole Cave (Elysia Mathias)



# CAVIN CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 18TH - MARCH 31ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Feb 18</i>	<b>Feb 19</b> PRESIDENT'S DAY	<i>Feb 20</i>	<b>Feb 21</b>  MEETING 730 PM	<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>Feb 23</i>	<b>Feb 24</b> Adam Stephen dig - 930 am
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>Feb 27</i>	<b>Feb 28</b> Vertical session - James Rumsey 6pm	<i>Mar 1</i>	<i>Mar 2</i>	<i>Mar 3</i>
<i>Mar 4</i>	<i>Mar 5</i>	<i>Mar 6</i>	<b>Mar 7</b> Fox Skull Cave 6pm	<i>Mar 8</i>	<b>Mar 9</b> WVACS Wee kend	<b>Mar 10</b> WVACS Wee kend
<b>Mar 11</b> WVACS Weekend	<i>Mar 12</i>	<i>Mar 13</i>	<b>Mar 14</b>  MEETING 730 PM PI DAY	<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>Mar 16</i>	<b>Mar 17</b>  ST PATRICK'S DAY
<i>Mar 18</i>	<i>Mar 19</i>	<i>Mar 20</i>	<i>Mar 21</i>	<i>Mar 22</i>	<i>Mar 23</i>	<i>Mar 24</i>
<i>Mar 25</i>	<i>Mar 26</i>	<i>Mar 27</i>	<i>Mar 28</i>	<i>Mar 29</i>	<b>Mar 30</b> GOOD FRIDAY	<i>Mar 31</i>



# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Getting ready for Polyester Power Hour (OTR 16) (Photo by Bob B)



## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO OF THE NSS  
BOB BENNETT, BOB BENNETT, ED  
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR  
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344  
304-671-0344  
gimpycaver@comcast.net



**TO:**

