



RIVER BLUFF CAVE, JACKSON CO, AL

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

TRI-STATE GROTTO

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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
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** The photo on this month's cover of River Bluff Cave, Jackson Co, AL was taken by Nikki Fox on a 'Cave Bum' tour of VA, AL, & TN.

**** 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!



CAVE EVENTS

2018

JUN 2 --- Dig at Harman Cave - see Bob
JUN 8-10 --- Bubble weekend
JUN 8-10 --- WVACS weekend
~~JUN 9 --- Norman Cave - see Bob B~~
JUN 13 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY
JUN 16 --- Jones Quarry cleanup - 9am
JUN 17 --- FATHER'S DAY
JUN 20 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey - 6pm
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 22-24 --- NCRC-OCR - Chambersburg, PA
JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 11 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
JUL 14 --- Annual TSG Picnic - 12pm Noon -
C&O Canal Campground - see John
JUL 14-15 --- WVACS Classic - see Dave Sockey
JUL 18 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey - 6pm
JUL 30-AUG 3 --- NSS Convention - Helena, MT
AUG 8 --- TSG meeting - 7pm
AUG 13 --- LEFT HANDER'S DAY
AUG 15 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey - 6pm
AUG 25 --- Carols Crack - see Brent Jefferson
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
SEP 19 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey - 6pm
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 *****

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 MAY ----- \$30.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6900.52

**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/

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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



MONTH OF JUNE

Bob Bennett, Gordon Birkhimer, Hazel Bowen,
Anya Crane, Mike Eppley, Jesse Hogbin, Gage
Imes, Bill Vis

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REPORTS

TSG Meeting 5/9/18

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: Jones Quarry Cleanup will be Sat, June
16th starting at 9am.

Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day) is Sat, May 12
starting at 10:00 am.

Need to talk to Keith about the possibility us using
Fluorescein dye being used to see where water would go
in Adam Stephen pit.

TSG picnic will be held Sat, Jul 14th. It will be held
at the Antietam Campground on the C&O Canal. It
starts at 12 noon.

Bob added 3 more books to the TSG Library.

Spring VARs: JC talked about the date & locations
for future VARs.

Cave Bucks: \$30.00 – It will be sent to SCCI!

Vertical class will be held on Wed, May 16th at
James Rumsey starting at 6:00 pm.

Fall VAR will be held at Friars Hole near the end of
Sept.

OTR is Aug 30th – Sep 3rd.

Wed Night Caving: Dam #4 Cave – meet at the
parking lot for the dam at 6:00 pm.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

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

Harman Cave Dig 6-2-18

Cavers:
Zebulon Ruddle
Denny Nelson
Trecie Coleman
Mark Hodge
Jason Glacy
Cory Hopewood

Saturday June 2nd started off being a
very rainy day. They called for
heavy rain all day and the rivers were
already muddy. We worried that

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Harman cave would be too full of water to work on. We arrived at the cave entrance at about 10:15 am, and lucky for us the cave stream was not affected by all the rain. So we put on our cave gear to check the upstream passage.

The cave passage was between 2 and 4 feet tall in places. 100 feet into the cave a junction is encountered with water coming from both passages. The left-hand passage goes up for about 70 feet to a sump. Looking at the sump there is maybe an inch or two of airspace. It could be just a small pinch and enlarged beyond. It would be worth digging on during the dry part of summer. I believe this passage was dye traced in the 1970s to Harman Waterfall Cave about 5 or more miles away upstream.

The passage going to the right continues about 180 feet mostly as a crawl but there one small dome about 8 feet tall you can stand in. Beyond the small dome the stream is a 3-foot tube with some protrusions sticking out of the wall and water flowing out of it. The water could be from the Harman Cave #2 which is located above Harman Cave and in that general direction. Further upstream is unknown.

We returned to the entrance and started on micro shaving the downstream passage. After working on most of the day. We made some progress, about 8 feet. At the end of the dig you could see 8 to 10 feet of small one foot wide but about 8-foot-tall canyon passage.

Yelling produced an echo beyond the smaller constriction.

The cave has potential! The dig both down and up-stream can be worked on and hopefully we can do a recent dye trace to see if the cave stream appears in the immediate area or goes under the Dry Fork River.

Dyers Cave Report

I called Mrs Combs on Saturday morning, May 19th, to let her know we were headed up. She let me know they had mowed the parking area. She also noted that a few of their relatives would like to hop on a tour lead by an actual caving group. I was planning on contacting her later today or tomorrow to thank her and see when her family was thinking of going. Since you all have been primary contact it's probably best that you all arrange that but if you need/want help I'm happy to assist.

I'll write an actual trip report but here's the gist of the trip. We had ten people including a few first time Cavers. Ground headed in was VERY WET and we noticed a sinking creek about 30 feet from the entrance. That water clearly overfilled the entry under high water and it was clearly visible the second overflow entry just below the main entrance. I hopped inside to see if it was open but there was a lot of trash filling up the passage.

We continued into the cave winding our way down without really exploring the side passages due to our speed. Once we hit the water it was higher than I remembered ever seeing it and we continued around to the left going upstream which almost required getting chest deep in water but navigated carefully and it was nicely sporting.

We wrapped around to the right and did the small loop back into the sand crawl to the creek. No backflow at all though here. We kept the kids and folks who didn't want to do the second loop here while about half the group did the Rocky loop around to the stream again where we picked up the rest of the group and headed to the larger room (we used to refer to this as the cafeteria) where we had a snack. From there we moved down the upper trunk and worked into the Pre-waterfall Room.

There was one dead bat that had been reduced to bones here. I went down to check out the waterfall and the low connection was blasting air. Wrapping around there was so much water I had to lay on my back to get in and was fully soaked by the time I could stand up. Not that it mattered as the water was coming in at such a volume it was difficult to breathe. I hopped back over the entry and took a quick video before highailing it out. I asked if anyone else wanted to hop in and the only taker was probably the least skilled caver so I told him it wasn't wise for him and we continued on to the "weenieman squeeze". About half the group went this way while the other half met us in the trunk after we made it though. There's one difficult to remove rock that likes to sit directly in the pinch point and wasn't reachable while inside. That should be moved by the next person who goes through!

This was about a good limit for most folks so we made our way out from that point. We were in about three hours. And most of us made it to Front Royal for some typical post cave Mexican food.

David Smallwood

A 'Cave Bum' For A Week

by Nikki Fox

For a week between the Spring VAR at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Va., and the SERA Cave Carnival near Scottsboro, Ala., (April 28-May 6) I was an honest cave bum. I attended the VAR with Chris Coates and after the event he hitched a ride home with Carl Amundson since I decided to keep on a' driving south to TAG. Luckily, Andy Zellner let me stay at this Alabama home during the week.

It had been nearly a month since my newspaper was sold to a corporation. The photography staff was deemed unnecessary and I was laid off at the end of March. After 13 years in Harrisonburg and a career as a photojournalist for over 2 decades, I needed some proper time to morn my career ending and figure out my next step in life. What better way than to get away from the regular grind to clear my head, in an underground pursuit of happiness?

And so I got into 12 new caves and pits over nine days. In Smyth County, Va., I got into a vertical cave, Rowland Creek Cave, with old friends Mike Broome and Lisa Lorenzin, and a wet, horizontal cave called Missed Opportunity Cave with Brian Williams to make some awesome photos.

On Monday I met up with Reilly Blackwell, a VPI caver temporarily living in Huntsville working at the NSS Headquarters and project caving every moment she has. She took me to one of her projects in Jackson County, Ala., — Favorite Well — where she took me on a vertical tour and we made some photos.

Tuesday I bounced Larson Well, a 161-foot open-air pit, in Marion County, Tenn., with the landowner: project caver Jason Hardy.

On Wednesday I drove to central Tennessee to help survey a 100-footer called Wiggy Well with Ben Miller, the founder of the Deep Pit Assassin Squad.

Thursday I went on a solo photo trip to Bluff River Cave, a nice horizontal cave that consists of large river borehole and a lot of formations. Thursday night, Andy arrived in Alabama and he took me to a cave near his house for some

midnight caving.

Friday, I co-lead a trip with Jason Hardy for the SERA. We were attempting to have a thru-trip from Skylight Cave to War Eagle Cave. I was told that it had only been done once before by Troy Fuqua, who was supposed to lead the trip, but woke up that morning sick. So he explained the route to us, with a hand-drawn map and sent us on our way. After a grueling 2-hour TAG hike bushwhacking through the Alabama mountains, we arrived at Skylight Cave. We rigged the first drop (106



Anastomoses in Bluff River Cave (Photo by Nikki Fox)

ft) as a pull down, with Jason being the meat anchor for the last rappeller: me. The other two drops (22 and 25 ft) were not as exciting, as we used natural anchors for the pulldowns. It took the both of us some time to route find, as we all had our doubts, but there was no turning back . . . we were forced to find our way out. Jason found the way out of a confusing large breakdown room and it was I who found the ~1,200 foot 3-foot high passage with 8 inches of airspace. After an obscene amount of crawling on chert cobbles, we finally



Flowstone in Bluff River Cave (Photo by Nikki Fox)

connected to War Eagle and were all very happy to stroll down the large river bore towards our

last obstacle — climbing the 137-foot rope to exit.

Monday, I made the 8-hour drive home, not wanting my small time as a cave bum to end.



The
lifestyle

Rockpile in Bluff River Cave (Photo by Nikki Fox)

On Saturday, I was happy to have a lazy day of pit bouncing with friends Andy and Elliot Stahl. Philip Rykwaldner and Emily Davis also joined us to visit a recently-discovered pit called Area 51 Pit. The drop is only 70 feet, but the entrance is sexy and there are amazing formations in the room at the bottom. And of course, images were made.

Sunday, I met up with Maryland friends Terry McClanathan, Corey Hackley and Sera Weaver. We bounced Adair Pit (61 and 60 ft) with Marion O. Smith, Sharon Jones, Elliot Stahl and Dave Stahl in Jackson County, Ala. Then the four of us drove to Madison County to bounce a newly-found pit called Three's A Crowd (151 ft). Corey hiked the mountain side, looking for other pits and found a new one. We rappelled down, and determined it was about 115 feet deep. Terry wanted to name it 'You Shoulda Looked Here Well.'

surrounding the 'cave bum' is magical, high-risk and slightly smelly. And I loved every minute of it!

JONES QUARRY CLEANUP **Sat, June 16th starting at 9am.**

Hi everyone, we have taken on a local conservation project! The owner of Jones Quarry Cave (Allen Monger) has asked if we would help clean up the area around Jones Quarry Cave (including the parking area)! Work begins at 9am and continues until about 2 to 3 pm. We would need a lot of help. Allen will have at least 1 large trailer there to haul trash. We plan on having drinks and food available for those who help out. When we are done the cave will be open for trips! The more we can do the better our relations will be with the owner. Contact Bob gimpycaver@comcast.net



CAVIN CALENDAR

JUNE 10TH - JULY 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 10 BUBBLE WEEKEND WVACS WEEKEND	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13 MEETING 700 PM	Jun 14 FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16 JONES QUARRY CLEANUP 9AM
Jun 17 FATHER'S DAY	Jun 18	Jun 19	Jun 20 VERTICAL SESSION JAMES RUMSEY 6PM	Jun 21 SOLSTICE	Jun 22 NCRC-OCR CHAMBERS - BURG, PA	Jun 23 NCRC-OCR CHAMBERS - BURG, PA
Jun 24 NCRC-OCR CHAMBERS - BURG, PA	Jun 25	Jun 26	Jun 27	Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30
Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4 	Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7
Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 10	Jul 11 MEETING 700 PM	Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14 ANNUAL TSG PICNIC C & O CAMPGROUND 12 NOON WVACS CLASSIC SEE DAVE SOCKEY
Jul 15 WVACS CLASSIC SEE DAVE SOCKEY	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18 VERTICAL SESSION JAMES RUMSEY 6PM	Jul 19	Jul 20	Jul 21

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Magahas Cave, Ranson, WV (Bob B)

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