

DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



CALMES NECK CAVE, CLARKE CO, VA

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2018

#47

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FULL MEMBERSHIP -----\$10.00 (*Must be NSS*)
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP---\$12.00 (*Non-NSS*)
SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (*Non-Voting*)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----\$2.00/FAMILY
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00 (*Must be NSS*)
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
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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 during the survey of Calmes Neck Cave in Clarke Co, VA..

**** 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 IN EVENTS

2018

MAY 1 --- MAY DAY
MAY 3-6 --- 67th Annual SERA Cave Carnival –
Scottsboro, AL
MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE 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 (Martinsburg
Heritage Day – Be there at 9am
MAY 13 --- MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 16 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey – 6pm
MAY 25-28 --- Speleofest – Lone Star Pres, KY
MAY 28 --- MEMORIAL DAY
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
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

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 APRIL ----- \$26.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$6870.52

The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

V.#33

I.#3

MAR

2018

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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 MAY

Carl Amundson, Sandy Amundson, Stephen Bowen, JC Fisher, Doyle Garvin, Chase Griffin, Lucas Hanson, Elysia Mathias, Greg McCoy, Trevor Ward

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



REPORTS

TSG Meeting 4/11/18

John called the meeting to order at 7:17 5 pm.

Jerry gave the Treasurer's Report.

Correspondence: Bob talked about Craig Stihler and the computer that TSG purchased for them.

Committee Reports: Doc gave a report on the poles and his results.

Tom said that the rope is in.

Mason gave a report on the caving form.

Doc would like to take an inventory of the equipment items that TSG has.

Old Business: Keith would have to get an OK to put water & fluorescein dye in the Adam Stephen Pit to track where the water goes.

New Business: John gave a report on where we will be having the 2018 TSG summer picnic.

Tom talked about the Bill Jackson video for \$20.

The money goes to the NSS.

Someone broke one of the weld spots on the Baker Gate. We will be repairing the gate Sat, Apr 14th. A scout group will also be doing a cleanup of graffiti in the quarry. Everyone is welcome to bring their kayaks to sail the quarry seas! Meet at Wardensville at 10am.

The Spring VAR will be Apr 27th – 29th at Hungry Mother Retreat.

Heritage (Adam Stephen) Day will be Sat, May 12th. Be there about 9am to help out.

Wed Night Caving: Bat count at a local cave on Wed, Apr 25th. Meet at 6pm.

The tooth found in Fox Skull was either from a horse, mule, or pig.

Cave Bucks: \$26 (SCCI)

Who Went Caving?: Doc went to Jones Quarry, Three was actually 3 trips total.

Bob gave a report on changing lightbulbs at Endless caverns.

Bob took the owner of Jones Quarry & his son into the cave.

Allen Monger wants to do a cleanup of the Jones Quarry Cave parking area in the quarry in April or May.

John Adjourned the meeting at 9pm.

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

Snyder Property, Greenbrier County, WV

Short story:

DNR was contacted in May 2016 by landowner with concerns over trash in sinkhole and expansion of other sinkhole near her house.

June 2016 - visited property to examine sinkhole and other caves.

October 2016 - returned to continue investigation of caves on property.

November 2016 - removed almost 2 tons of metal, 30 bags of trash, and 7 tires from sinkhole.

Total cost of effort ~ \$171

Long story:

I was initially contacted in May 2016 by Linda Snyder regarding her concerns over the increase in size of a sinkhole near her home in Greenbrier county. She also mentioned that there were a few other caves on her property, and one sinkhole with a lot of trash in it from a previous landowner. I contacted several cavers to see

how we could proceed to determine the situation. Bill Balfour, a geologist and local caver with the WVCC and WVaSS went out and saw that the sinkhole was actually a wet weather overflow of a spring. Recent timbering in the area had changed the volume of runoff entering a sinkhole up the valley which produced a change in outflow near her house. I also contacted Tri State Grotto about coming down to look at the caves on her property, they agreed and we set up a date in June.

In June 2016, six members of Tri State Grotto came down to investigate the property with me. June 10th and 11th Tri State Grotto with Jeff Hajenga, Bob Bennett, Terri, Tom and Mason Griffin, JC Fisher went to Mrs. Snyder's property to see how we could help.

Upon arrival we were eagerly greeted and welcomed by the landowner. We examined the sinkhole near her house and reassured her that it was stable and not a risk to her home. We then proceeded to look at other cave features on her property. These included three pit caves and one horizontal cave. None of these had been documented. The owner described the location of the caves to us and we looked at the cave with the trash in it first.



Indian Knife (Photo by Jeff Hajenga)



Indian Knife (Photo by Terri Griffin)

Upon arrival we saw a trash filled sinkhole at the northern end of the property. At the base of the area of trash we could see an opening that we measured at about 20 feet deep. We then went on to a small horizontal cave near a water trough. The passage trended downslope for about 40 feet and rounded a curve. We did not proceed this time to look further.



Nether Field (Photo by Terri Griffin)



Bongo (Photo by Jeff Hajenga)

We then went to the pit nearest her house. It consisted of a single drop of about 20 feet that belled out at the base to a room approximately 30 feet in diameter. There was no additional passage from this room. This cave had been used to collect drinking water and a system of steel drums and a support trapeze was used. Many rusted drums and the piping was still seen at the base of the pit and along the wall on the way into the cave.

Basically it looked like an upside down Mushroom. Mrs. Snyder said there were barrels lowered in to the cave to collect water. The sound of the water hitting the barrel is why we call it Bongo Cave.



Calf Catcher (Photo by Bob Bennett)

We then decided to check out another pit nearby that was a hazard to the landowner's cattle. We proceeded to remove a marginally effective barbed wire fence and enter the cave. The pit ended up being dead bottom pit 8 feet deep and about 3 feet in diameter. We moved a few posts and improved the fence position which would restrict the cattle's access to the pit. This put an end to the day's activities.

June 24th was the extreme flooding around Lewisburg.

September 30 to October 2 was VAR at Poor Farm.

On Oct 1, 2016 five members of Tri State Grotto again returned to the property to help investigate the caves. The crew this time was Jeff Hejenga, Paulette & Bob Bennett, Terri & Tom Griffin, Jerry Bowen, John Dicarolo.

It was decided beforehand to focus on the trash filled sinkhole with pit and the horizontal cave near a water trough. Upon arrival we noticed the high water overflow nearest the house had changed in proportion

and was now approximately 10 ft in diameter, compared to 3 feet before.



Sinkhole (Photo by Tom Griffin)

The owner stated that during the high rainfall and flooding in the region in June that the normally dry hole had become a geyser shooting 4 feet in the air and depositing about a foot rock and clay in her yard and driveway. We looked at this spot and removed a few large rocks to get a better idea on the nature of the sinkhole but had several very large boulders shift and it was decided that it was not completely safe to continue excavation.

We then went to the trash filled sink at the north end of the property, it was no longer a clogged sink. After rigging the rope into the pit we descended through the layers of trash.



"Trash Pit" (Photo by Jeff Hajenga)

After an initial drop of about 20 feet the passage split in two. One continued to another drop of about 25 feet,

the other to a canyon like passage with a shorter pit at the end of it. We took some measurements on the passage and found it to consist of about 200 feet of passage with a total cave depth of about 50 feet.

We then went to a horizontal cave located near a spring and water trough. We first dropped down into the room about 6 feet by 12 with a crack to the left.



Nether Field (Photo by Tom Griffin)

Terri climbed through the crack. She scooted down the passage which was about 18 inches high most of the way. Down into an area that went 3 directions, we determined one of the passages did not go anywhere. The other 2 possible, we decided to hold off on the next trip. After moving one of the rocks 4 of us made it down the passage. A linear footage turned out to be 83 feet of passage. Because time was getting short we decided that another trip to the caves to do an accurate mapping and a cleanup was warranted.

On November 12 and 13th, 2016, eight members of Tri State Grotto came down to assist with the sinkhole cleanup. This included Todd Zimmerman, Jeff Hajenga, Terri & Tom Griffin, Paulette & Bob Bennett, John DiCarlo and Mary and Jerry Bowen. John DiCarlo had spent hours on the phone trying to find someone who would deliver a dumpster to the site. There were 3 different salvage companies in the area. We settled on Greenbrier Valley Solid Waste. A 30 cu yd dumpster was ordered and dropped off to be used for scrap metal only.



Indian Knife (Photo by John DiCarlo)

We started around 9am setting ropes as safeties working near the hole and hill side. We filled the dumpster only with metal. We had a refrigerator that we cut up, heaters, water pressure tanks. There were also large spools of wire, parts of an international truck and lots more. We used a truck with lots of chains to pull the heavy stuff up. We rigged up a high line for hauling material out of the sinkhole and up to the dumpster.



Indian Knife (Photo by John DiCarlo)

We bagged all the trash. We took half the trash in bags with us while Jeff went back to remove the other half at a later date. We had about 33 large heavy mil bags filled with everything from records to carpet. We worked from 09:00 to about 15:00 both days with a total of 108 people hours. In all 3880 lbs of metal, 7 tires, and 30 bags of trash were removed from the sinkhole.

Additional trash exists within the entrance (approximately 6 ft thick layer) of the cave that will require more work and hand picking. This is being scheduled for some time in the spring of 2017.

Cost of dumpster was \$160. Paid by Tri State Grotto

Saw blades \$31

Value of metal removed and recycled \$20

Trash bags – donated by Grotto members

Additional funding was applied for to NSS, but project was completed before grant came back. NSS funding might be used to pay for future efforts at this site.



(Photo by John DiCarlo)



Owner Linda Snyder (Photo by John DiCarlo)

Now the rest of the story:

Since most of the work has been done and we have begun to play some, now it was time to set up times to play and survey the new caves.

On March 18, 2017, we had a recon trip into Indian Knife Cave. The reason for the trip was to see if it was feasible to do any digging in the cave to extend any of the passages. There had been several inches of snow in the area and with slightly warmer temperatures the snow was melting making the fields on the farm very very muddy. Because of this we pretty much stayed on the make shift roads so as not to tear up the fields. This trip included Jeff Hajenga, David Knox, Tom Griffin, Todd Zimmerman, & Bob Bennett. (Not knowing it at the time but this was probably Bob's last true vertical trip!)



(Photo by Bob Bennett)

Once the rope was rigged everyone rappelled into the cave. WOW! The cave was very different this time. The cave was very wet & muddy. There was actually a waterfall just to the right of the area where you rappel to the bottom of the dome pit. Dave checked for places where his expertise might be used. There was even some digging done in the area where the stream enters the clogged passages. After about 2 hours of futile digging everyone decided that maybe the cave ought to be left alone for now.

After everyone climbed out we all headed to Lewisburg for dinner. The food was good and the camaraderie was great!

The final chapter?

A lot was being said about when & who was going to be involved in the survey of the caves on the Snyder Farm in Greenbrier Co. It kept being moved and delayed. Finally the time had come to actually survey Indian Knife Cave and Bongo Pit!

Back in August there was an email that went around naming the caves on the Snyder property. We asked Mrs. Snyder to name the caves. When time had passed the suggestions were put out. On September 6 an email was posted stating the name as Indian Knife Pit, originally Trash Pit possibly from the Indian relics that were found after the Lewisburg flood. Bongo Pit because of the sound the water falling in the cave made on steel drums at the bottom. Nether Field Spring Cave, a small over flow spring pipe that flows into the cave previously mapped to 85 feet, horizontal Cave. Calf catcher pit, about an 8-foot pit leading nowhere that anyone could see. Calf Catcher Pit is a small hole on a hill that Jeff, Bob, Terri, Mason and I repaired a fence to keep Linda Snyder's Scottish Highlander Calf from falling into the hole.

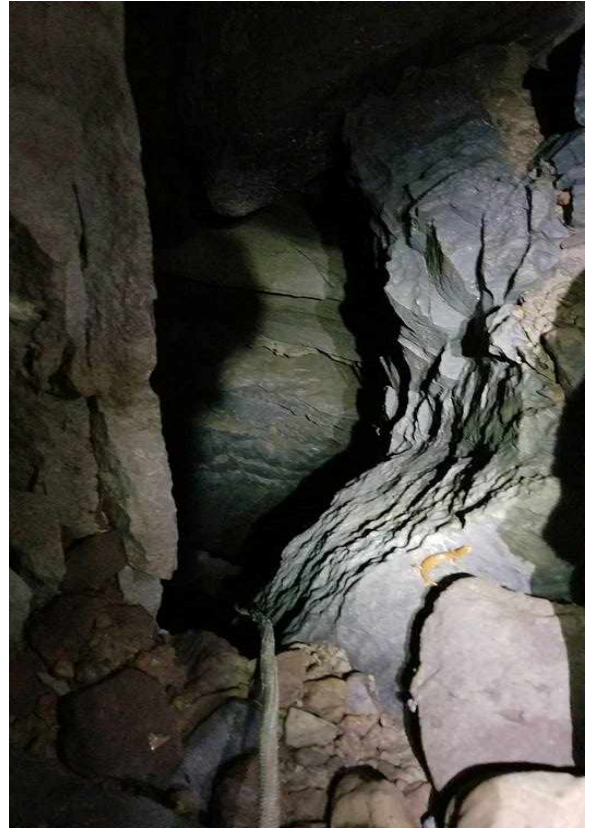
In the meantime, Bob Oehler was asked if he would like to survey Nether Field Spring Cave. Since he does not to rope work he agreed to survey the cave. He is now in the process of drawing the map.

On October 15, 2017

I met Terry McClanathan at the Spring Mills Walmart parking lot about 5:30am. We traveled until we stopped at the rest area just short of Lewisburg. Since it was about 9:00am when we arrived in Lewisburg Terry had an errand to run to drop off an item to a friend. From there, I texted Jeff Hajenga that we were in town that we would be at the Snyder property about 10:00.

On schedule Terry and I met Jeff at the Snyder property, said hello to Mrs. Snyder then proceeded to Indian Knife Cave, aka, trash pit. The 3 of us set 2 ropes, one across 2 trees the second with a butterfly knot over the

pit. There is still about 3 feet of trash buildup at the entrance with very sharp metal to make life interesting.



Window drop to Dome Room in Indian Knife (Photo by Tom Griffin)

At about 11:00 am Terry being the Cartographer, Jeff and I set the stations and taking the shots while Terry drew the rough draft. I went down first to set the second station. This was a 13-foot rappel with a 4 foot climb down. From there we surveyed the horizontal portion in the first level. Then we moved to what is now called the "Lost Glove Canyon". Terry and Jeff made the 9-foot drop into the canyon while I stayed above to keep the rope in position besides there is not a lot of room at the bottom. Total height throughout the canyon was 23 feet with a catwalk about the 9-foot high mark. On the way out of the canyon Terry lost a pair of gloves, after an all-out search for the gloves, the search was called off giving the name Lost Glove Canyon.



Indian Knife (Photo by Jeff Hajenga)

Moving on to the Dome Room, there was a 5 foot climb down with a 32' total repel to the landing spot at the bottom of the Dome Room. After surveying around the corner, we were able to get a laser shot of 44 feet to the ceiling. On March 18th Jeff Hajenga, Bob Bennet, Tod Zimmerman, Terri and Tom Griffin and Dave Knox dropped the pit to try digging open possible leads. We had stopped after a few hours due to the constant water fall, getting wet and cold and getting nowhere, we thought we would come back at a later date. It was determined to wait until after a survey was done since we thought the lead at the bottom may lead to Lost Glove Canyon.

After the survey was completed the map shows the canyon and the Dome room does intersect at different levels possibly being separated by a layer of trash. There was another lead Dave Knox was working on with a heavy current of water. That lead was completely gone during the survey.



Indian Knife (Photo by Tom Griffin)

We completed Indian Knife Pit about 1:30pm, stopped for lunch then dropped a single rope into Bongo Pit a 16-foot entrance pit with a total depth of 19 feet. With a total survey of 71 feet this pit had some very nice formations in the bottom. Water continually fell into the pit just disappearing into the floor along the walls.



Bongo (Photo by Tom Griffin)

The 3 of us exited Bongo Pit and cleaned everything up. The time was about 3:00pm. We took a long shot over to Calf Catcher FRO pit at about 185 feet from Bongo Pit. Terry listed it as a 6-foot pit. We headed over to Nether Field Spring Cave to take a quick look since Terry had not yet been in any of the caves. We went on down to where the little pool of water sat. We felt no compelling reason to cross this pool, so we headed out. After saying goodbyes it was about 4:00pm. Terry and I made it back to the Spring Mills Walmart parking lot by 8:00pm. There was a lot of traffic on the way back.

Tom Griffin 12-9-2017

So there you have it! There was a lot of planning and a lot of disagreeing about each when and where, but it finally happened. The saga goes from an owner's concern about a sinkhole and her home to a massive sinkhole cleanup, to adding at least 3 caves (pits) to the Greenbrier Co survey.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the ongoing saga. It has been interesting but fun!

Those involved: Jeff Hagenga, Tom & Terri & Mason Griffin, JC Fisher, Bob & Paulette Bennett, John DiCarlo, Jerry & Mary Bowen, Todd Zimmerman, David Knox, and Bob Oehler and his survey crew in Nether Field Spring Cave.

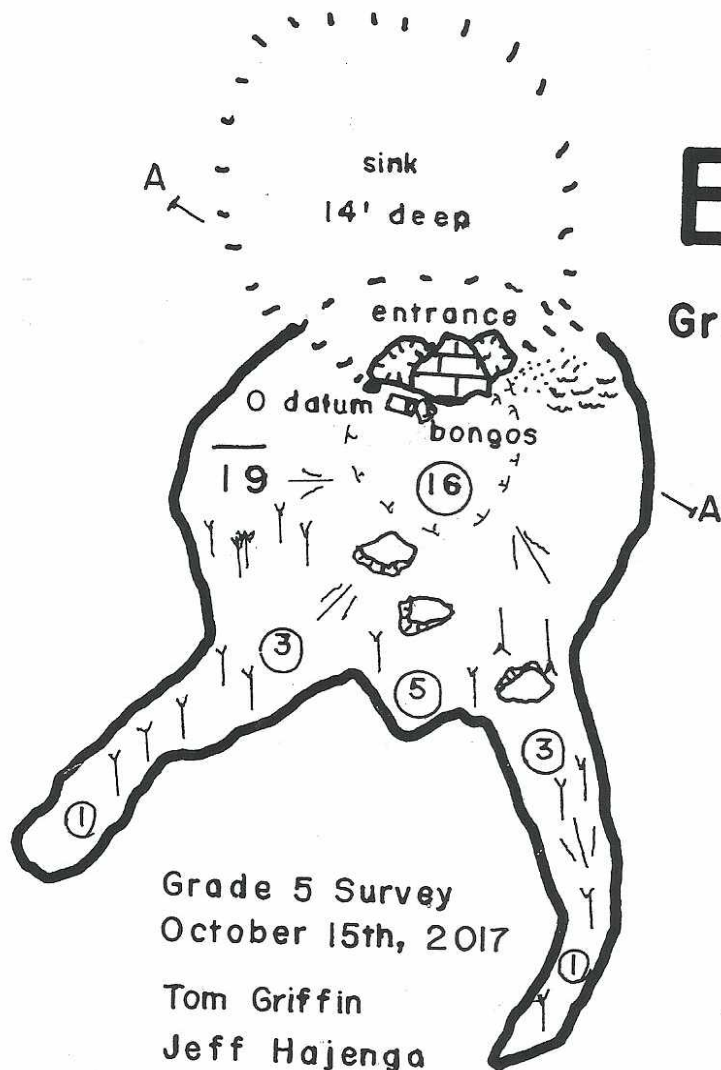
Exerpts of this story are taken from reports from Jeff Hajenga, Tom Griffin, and Bob Bennett



Dumpster full of metal (Photo by John DiCarlo)



Jeff & Tom rolling up fence wire (Photo by BB)

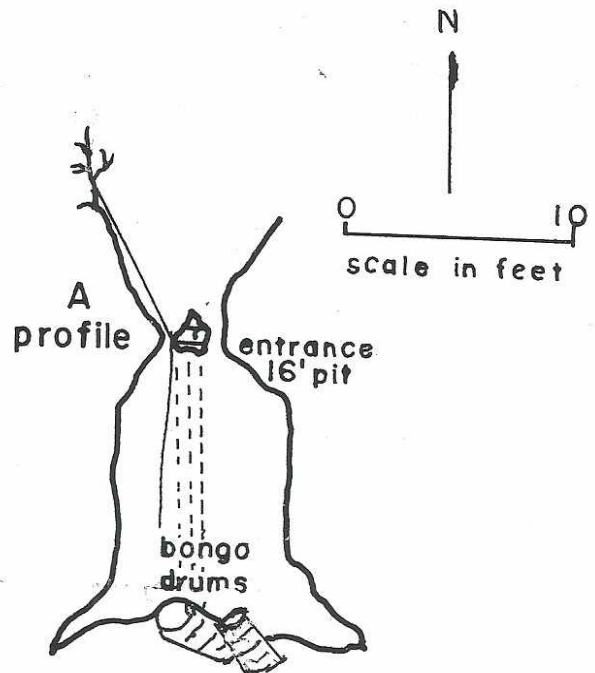


Bongo Pit

Greenbrier County, W.Va.

Grade 5 Survey
October 15th, 2017

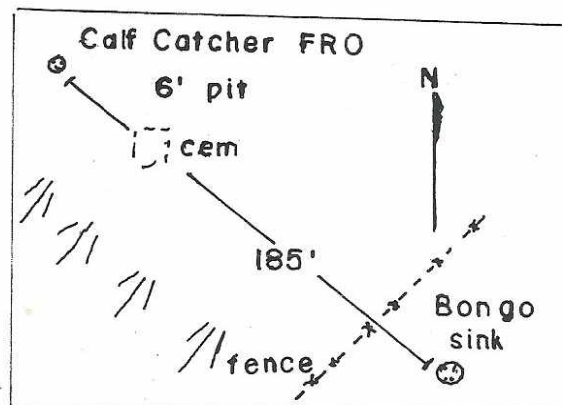
Tom Griffin
Jeff Hajenga
Terry McClanathan



Cartography: McClanathan

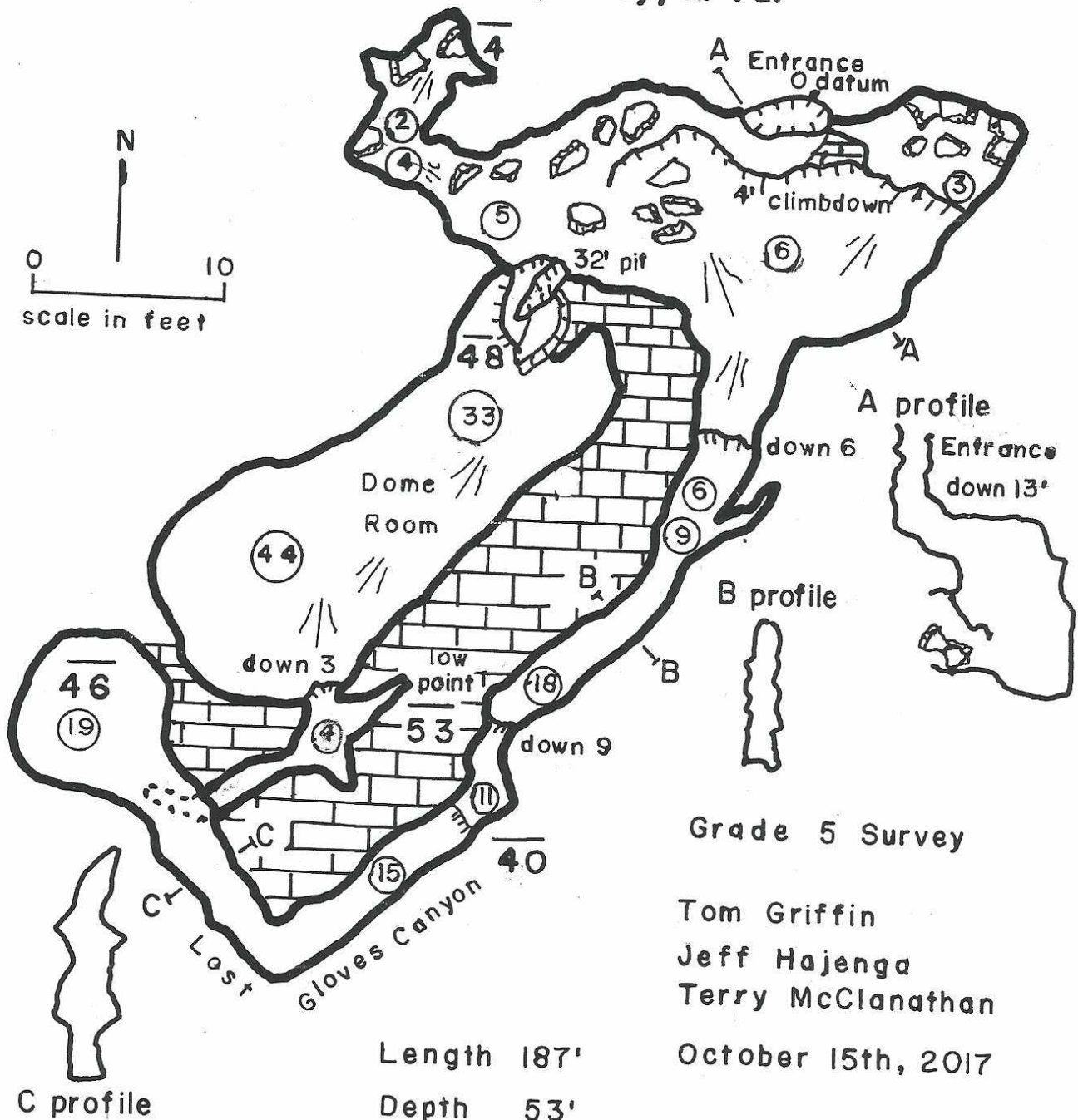
Length 71'

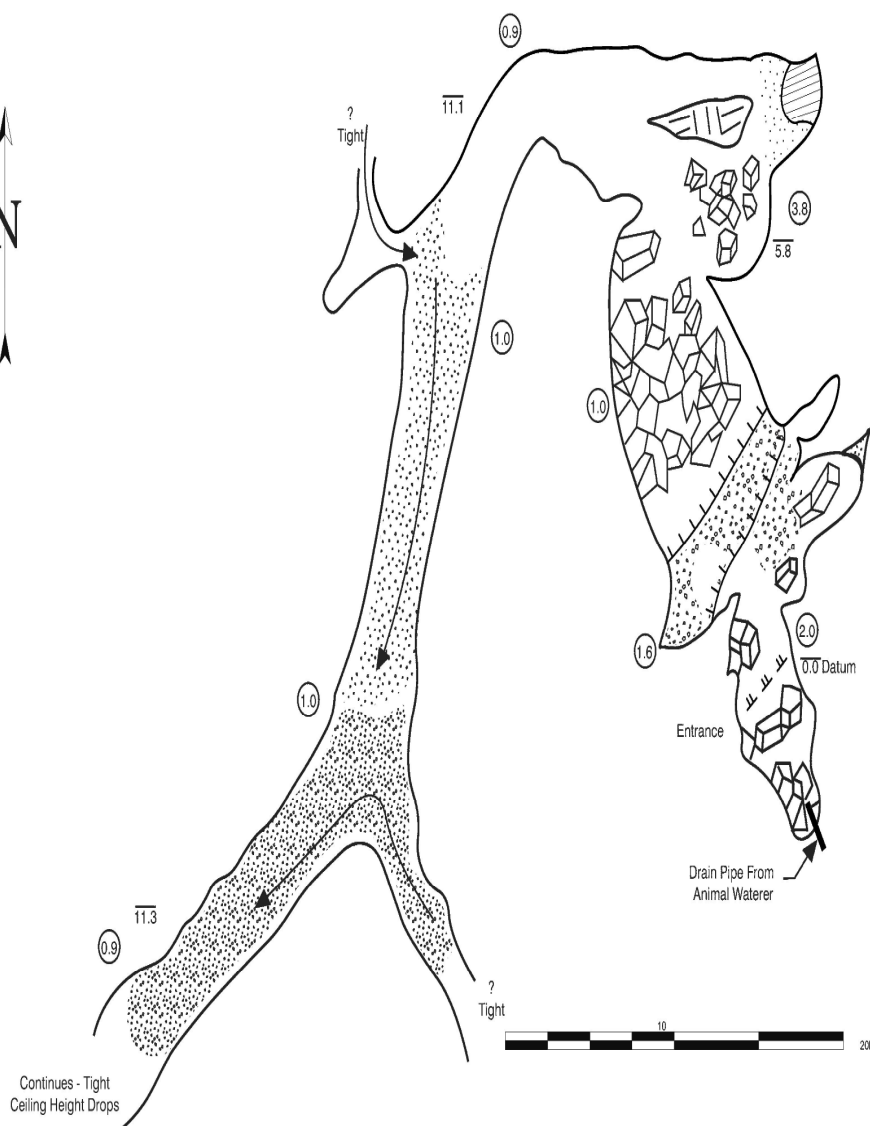
Depth 19'



Indian Knife Cave

Greenbrier County, W. Va.





Netherfield Cave

Greenbrier County, WV

37°52'35.8"N x 80°29'37.7"W

Total Surveyed Length: 85.8 feet

Vertical Relief: 11.2m feet

Survey Date: 8/12/2017

Disto & Sunto Compass

Survey Team:

Front Site: Carly Vest

Back Site: Chris Walsh

Book: Bob Oehler

Also Present

Cass Springer, Mary SanMiguel,

Louis Mozzano, Jenny Koss

Cartography By: Bob Oehler

WVACS

West Virginia Association for Cave Studies





CAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 6TH - JUNE 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 6 SERA CAVE CARNIVAL - Scottsboro, AL	May 7	May 8	May 9  MEETING 730 PM	May 10	May 11 WVACS weekend	May 12 WVACS weekend ADAM STEPHEN DAY - Martinsburg Heritage Day 10am
May 13 WVACS weekend MOTHER'S DAY	May 14	May 15	May 16 VERTICAL SESSION JAMES RUMSEY - 6PM	May 17	May 18	May 19
May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25 SPELEOFEST - LONE STAR PRESERVE, KY	May 26 SPELEOFEST - LONE STAR PRESERVE, KY
May 27 SPELEOFEST - LONE STAR PRESERVE, KY	May 28  MEMORIAL DAY SPELEOFEST - LONE STAR PRESERVE, KY	May 29	May 30	May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2
Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6	Jun 7	Jun 8 BUBBLE WEEKEND	Jun 9 BUBBLE WEEKEND NORMAN CAVE - SEE BOB B WVACS WEEKEND
Jun 10 BUBBLE WEEKEND WVACS WEEKEND	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13  MEETING 730 PM	Jun 14  FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16 JONES QUARRY CLEANUP 9AM



Entrance to Bathon Cave (Bob Edmonds)



Tom just coming out of Bathon Cave (Bob B)



Earl at Bathon Cave (Bob B)



Calmes Cave (Bob Edmonds)

Bathon & Calmes Caves in Clarke Co, VA were surveyed by Bob Edmonds, Terry McClanathan, Tom Griffin, Jerry Bowen, Earl Suitor, & Bob Bennett,

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Inside Baker Quarry (Bob B)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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TO:

