

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



ROAD KILL CAVE, JEFFERSON CO, WV

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FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (Must be NSS)
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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00 (Must be NSS)
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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. It shows Beau Ouimette coming out of Road Kill Cave on the county line of Berkeley & Jefferson Counties.

**** 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

NOV 1 ---- DAY of the DEAD!
NOV 3 ---- Pendleton Co ridgewalk
NOV 4 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 10 --- WVCC Banquet at the Brier Inn at
Lewisburg, WV – 7pm
NOV 10 --- JMU trip to Jones Quarry – 930am
NOV 11 --- VETERAN'S DAY
NOV 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm- Nominations
NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkins Day
NOV 17 --- JONES QUARRY cleanup! – We will
be sponsoring our 2nd cleanup of the
area around the quarry. Come on out
& help out. Lunch and drinks will be
provided. The cave will be open for
visitation after the cleanup!
NOV 22 --- THANKSGIVING DAY
NOV 23 --- BLACK FRIDAY
DEC 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Elections
DEC 21 --- WINTER SOLSTICE
DEC 22 --- Annual TSG Christmas Party – 6pm
– Bedington Ruritan
DEC 24 --- CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 31 --- NEW YEAR'S EVE
JAN 1 ---- NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 9 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm
JAN 21 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
FEB 2 --- GROUND HOG DAY
FEB 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 18 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY
MAR 13 -- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAR 14 --- PI DAY
MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY
APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY
APR 2 --- PB&J DAY

***** 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 NOVEMBER ----- \$47.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7058.53

WOW! That \$47 again! That's 2 months in a row! GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

The money was sent to SCCI.
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & GIVING 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

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Mary Bowen, Nikki Fox, Tom Griffin, Arthur Hanson Jr, Christal Hanson, Bill Jackson, Terry McClanathan, Tim McDougle, John Scrivener

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

TSG MEETING 10/10/18

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

Correspondence: WVCC Banquet at the Brier Inn on 11/10/18.

Bob sent out a Library list on the TSG Listserve.
Doc needs more poles.
Tom is ordering the pulleys for the Grotto with a 10% discount.

Old Business: The weekend of Nov 17 we are have a 2nd cleanup of the Jones Quarry area between 9am & 3pm. Brink racks, shovels, gloves, buckets, and anything else that you think that might be helpful. A bid was put on Silers Cave.

New Business: Tom talked about repairing baker Quarry gate again. Everything went well. Brent talked about the Baker kayak trip. There were 31 people kayaking, tubing, etc. Very muddy.

Cave trips: Jerry went to Fall VAR along with several others from the Grotto.

Jerry received the VAR Outstanding Service Award along with Carl Amundson. John also talked about the Fall VAR. He went to New River cave. John saw a snake.

Tom, Gary, & Elysia went to Links Cave then Smoke Hole cave.

Tom & Terry surveyed Santos Chimney then went to Cascade cave. Bob then talked about Santos Chimney.

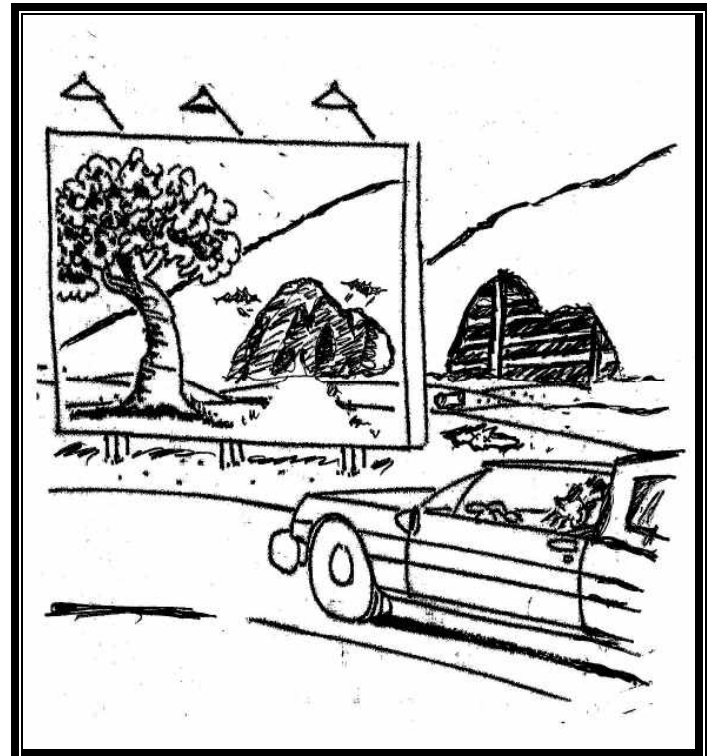
Upcoming Trips: Vertical Session at James Rumsey on Oct 17. Oct 13 is Molers Cave cleanup and Oct 20 is Bridge Day. Oct 27 is a vertical session at Camp Rock Enon.

Wed Night caving will be at Whittings Neck & Indian River caves.

Cave Bucks: \$47.00 which is to be sent to SCCI. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

The Annual Grotto Auction started at 8:30pm. We earned \$199 from the auction! Well done!

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



A little cave humor by Don 'Doc' Phillips

Smittys Pit AKA The “Sink Hole” By Tom Griffin

On 10-4-2018 I was texted by a friend who has a friend that hunts in Pendleton County WV. Smitty said, “I found this hole while hunting and almost fell in it.” His own words, “It must go down 150 to 200 hundred feet.” Being in the Smoke Hole area there was no reason not to believe him. After some texting back and forth we finally setup a meeting place and time.

On 10-20-2018 – Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Elysia and Gary Mathias headed to our meeting place and caught up to Smitty so he could walk us to this pit. We brought our long ropes and a rope to set between the trees for an easy ascent. The walk was about a ¼ mile to the sink. We walked over the hill and found a nice opening with trees for an easy tie-off. It had really nice limestone walls, but then when you look down you could see the bottom from the top.



By Tom Griffin

Somewhat disappointing, we set the ropes for the repel. Elysia and I did the drop. We found lots of metal in the bottom. Each time you moved the pile moved there was very little mud in the bottom. You could see that the rain kept the debris clean of the brown stuff that we seemed to run into a lot lately. After we came out, I used the Disto-x to find our depth to be between 32 and 35 feet.



Elysia preparing to climb (BobB)

The information was sent out to 2 of our friendly DNR people to check the GPS to see if we were actually on National Forest Land or private property. Our thoughts were that we were over top another known cave. There are rumors that there are other cave openings that have been found and never found again.

When the information came back it turn out this is a known cave that has been forgotten. It is known as “The Sinkhole”. The cave was surveyed in December of 1971 by Bruce Smith, Sam Pitthan and Kelly Deem to a depth of 60 feet. Our GPS and the original survey GPS did not coincide.

I wrote Bruce about the Cave we ran into, and he says he remembers it well. He mentioned that there is a series of sinks in the area that seemed promising. With that Bob and I setup another trip.

On 11-3-2018 Bob and I headed back to this very brisk spot since it was on top of the mountain with the wind blowing about 20-40 mph. We checked for a few hours into different areas. Nothing found. So

we headed down the mountain since it was only a couple of hours before dark. We then looked for the parking space of another local cave and visited some locals in the area to see what they had to say about other sinks or holes in the area. The people around there are not interested in the caves but they are hunters that are familiar with the area. We will make plans to go back to follow more rumors.



(By BobB)

Member Spotlight



This month, the member spotlight is shining on Elysia Mathias. Mrs. Mathias is currently

working for a physicians group doing accounts receivable for Meritus Hospital. She has also worked as a controller for a private school and counted offerings for a large church. Along with caving, Elysia enjoys reading, cats, outdoors and family. Elysia and Gary have known each other since 1996 and have been married for the last five.

She started her caving adventures in 1998 in her home state of Pennsylvania. She has also caved in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. A tie that keeps her caving is her friendship with others in the caving community. Not only does she cave with Tri-State Grotto, she caves with members of DC Grotto.

Wednesday night caving events will find Elysia attending along with her husband. They visited caves such as Boyles and Dam 4, Bean, Big Column, Winders, Molars, Chapman, Fox Skull, Donaldsons, Whittings Neck, Jones Quarry and others. Trips they took further away involve more time and possible camping were: Sinks of Gandy, Carnegie, New River, Tawneys, Smoke Hole, Links, Hamilton, New Trout, Sharps (way beyond the waterfall), Dead Dog and Baker Quarry. One of their more recent trips was to Tytoona on July 4 of this year. Small and lithe, Elysia will go into places where no one else will go.

She has been to rope climbing practices at James Rumsey and did her first vertical climb in an unnamed pit in Pendleton county on Cave Mountain. Gary and Elysia attended a class in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania called 'An Introduction to Cave Rescue' with practice carrying a litter in Pipers Cave. She has been on ridge-walking events in Berkeley, Jefferson and Pendleton counties.

They have been recently spotted at two VAR's; Fall 2017 at Spruce Knob and Fall 2018 at New River Junction. Pictures on Facebook show her with a colorful new cave suit from On Rope 1.

While Silers Cave was for sale, she and Gary went to the property looking for the entrance. They think they found it! Though someone else bought Silers, they have it on their bucket list to own a cave one day.



Look to see more of Elysia at different events to come!

Jerry Bowen
Treasurer, Tri-State Grotto

REMINDER: For the 'Member Spotlight' feature, Bob Bennett would like TSG members to nominate names and provide a short article outlining the reasons why. Nominate someone today.

The following are photos of some small local caves. All of the photos were taken by me (BobB). Some of the photos were taken 20-30 years ago but if you look closely you might see some folks that you might recognize.



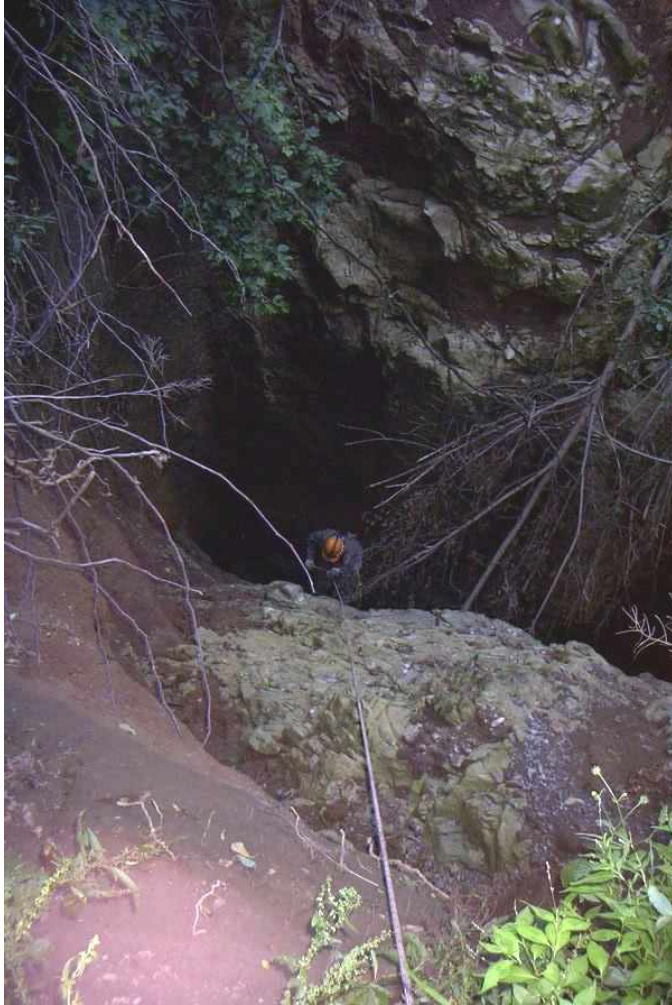
Avon Bend Cave – 20' up on a small cliff



Adams Pit – very very tight slot



Blairton Cave – 150' plus



Blair Pit 40 ft monster hole with 92 ft of passage



Crellans Cave – cave in huge sink with a mass of shrubs & trees



Deck Cave – Unique deck built on the entrance



Bloomery Hole – 25 ft deep hole



Drain (Butt Hole) Cave – dug open when ground was frozen!



Durst Pit – 8 ft deep hole next to a 30 ft hand dug well



General Gregg Cave – opened up in a yard with pump from pool leaking



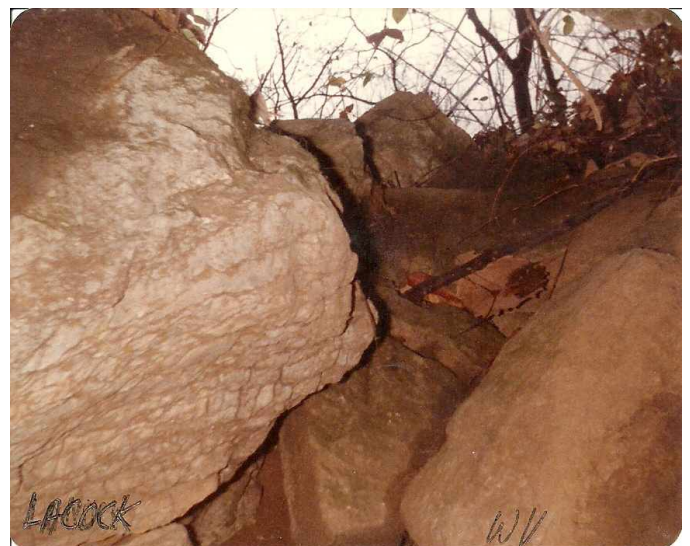
Flume Cave – opened up from water overflowing from an overhead flume



Nearly 40' pit with stream in bottom



Funnel Trap Cave – 35 ft rappel to 30 plus feet of water



Lacock Cave inside looking out



John Brown Annex



Crazy Ted looking up from Scrabble Pit



Sperrows Spiral Cave



Magahas Cave – 20' pit right in Ranson



Tomahawk #1 (Dereks Hope) Cave

Grotto Trips

10/13 ---- Molers Cave Cleanup – Cleaned up the massive amount of debris & mulch that accumulated in front of and against the gate – Tom, Todd, John, Shawn, Gary, Elysia, Ann, Gordon, Kevin, Bob, Adam

10/13 ---- Forgotten Cave – Gordon took pictures of this small cave

10/13 ---- Tourniquet Cave – Gary, Elysia, Bob – Gary acquired permission to look and this small tight cave and also another sinkhole on the same property

10/17 ---- Vertical Session – Tom, Eric, John, Doc, Gary, Elysia, Adam, Bob

10/20 ---- Smittys Hole – Met Smitty to check out a hole that he almost fell into – Tom & Elysia rappelled in & spotted 5 bats – Tom, Elysia, Gary, Bob, & Smitty

10/20 ---- Bridge Day – up to 800 ft of sheer delight! – Nikki, Chris, Carl, Gordon, & many others

10/24 ---- Indian River Cave – John, Jerry, Doc, & Adam

10/25 ---- Road Kill Cave – Bob & Paulette – Took GPS & pics

10/28 ---- Road Kill Cave – Beau & Bob – Dug & removed rock

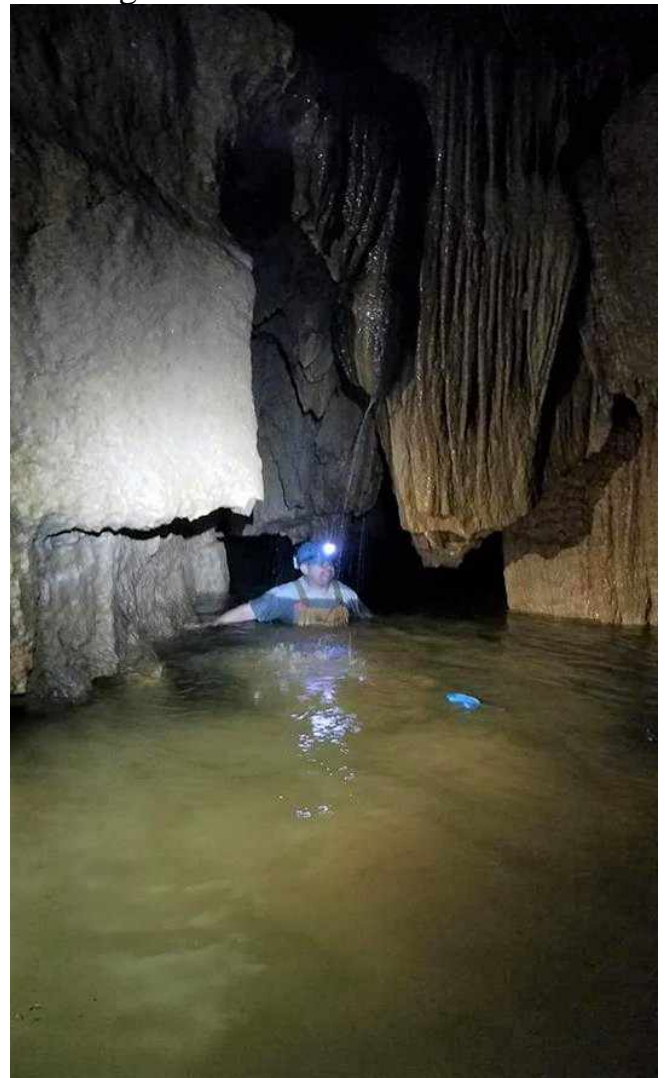
10/31 ---- Road Kill Cave – Beau, Bob, & Tom – Opened up & found active stream

11/3 ---- Cave Mt Ridgewalk – Tom & Bob – Trying to verify if Smittys is a new pit of one that has been forgotten about

11/10 ---- Jones Quarry Cave – Ted, his son, & his son's friend, JMU leaders

11/10 ---- WVCC Banquet – Jeff, Tom, Jerry, Mary, Nikki, Chris, Paulette, Bob – Nikki had slide show on Sweetwater River

This is just a few quick trip reports. The Grotto Trips blurbs was something that I used to put in the newsletter in past years. It gives an account of things that Grotto members are doing showing how active the Grotto actually is. Each month I will be asking everyone for a small paragraph about any caving activity that they were part of. So be prepared and let everyone know what you are doing!



Waterfall Room in Molers (by Tom Griffin)



Burgers at the Molers cleanup. Oh by the way do not try to broil Boca burgers on a grill. It doesn't work out too well!



New River Cave (by John DiCarlo)



New River Cave (by John DiCarlo)



Will Orndorph at the WVCC Banquet (by BobB)



Jerry, Tom, Jeff (by BobB)



CAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 11TH - DECEMBER 22ND



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 11 VETERAN'S DAY	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14 Meeting 7pm - Nominations	Nov 15	Nov 16 SADIE HAWKINS DAY	Nov 17 JONES QUARRY CLEANUP 9AM
Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20	Nov 21	Nov 22 THANKS GIVING	Nov 23 BLACK FRIDAY	Nov 24
Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1
Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7	Dec 8
Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12 Meeting 7pm - Elections	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15
Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21 SOLSTICE	Dec 22 ANNUAL TSG CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6PM

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Dr Doo Dah's Guano Elixir wins 1st place in 2018 Doo Dah Parade (by BobB)



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