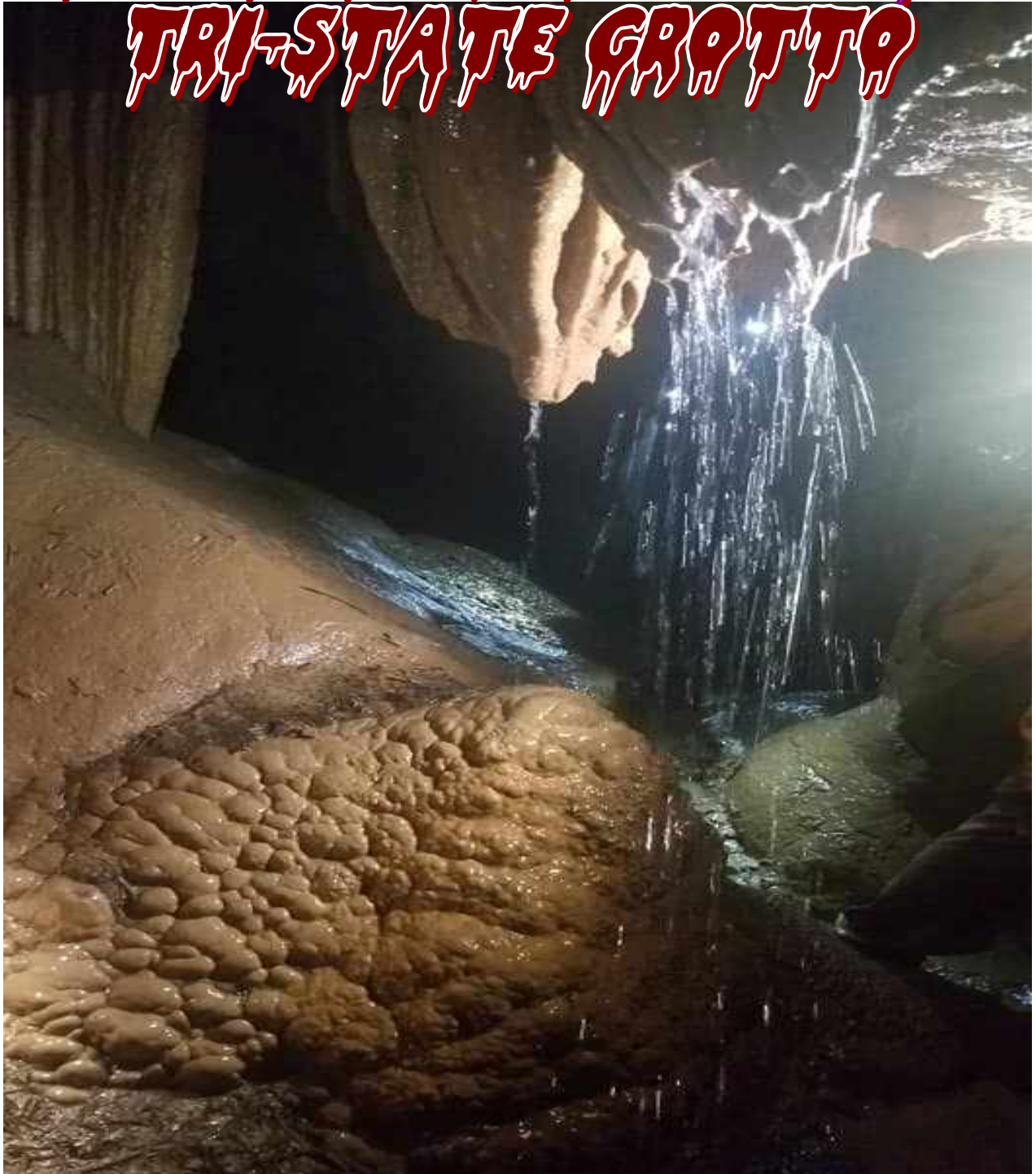


DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



WATERFALL IN MOLERS CAVE, JEFFERSON CO, WV

VOL. #33

ISS. #9

SEP

2018

#97

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**.

TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR - John DiCarlo - 301-432-2323
j.dicarlo@myactv.net

V-CHAIR - Bob Bennett - 304-671-0344
gimpycaver@comcast.net

TREASURER- Jerry Bowen - 301-790-0476
bookmaker-jb@myactv.net

SECRETARY - Paulette Bennett - 304-671-8317
kywoman15@comcast.net

Member At Large - Tom Griffin - 240-676-3184
A1TopCatDesign@gmail.com

Conservation Chair - Mason Griffin - 240-268-2593
tmgriffin@mix.wvu.edu

Equipment Chair - Doc Phillips - 703-583-0390
thosearemagicbeans@gmail.com

Membership Chair - Bob Bennett -304-671-0344
Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ----304-671-0344
Funding - Paulette Bennett -304-671-8317

P R Chair -----
Safety Chair -----
Program Dir -----
Youth Chair -----

TRI-STATE GROTTTO MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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
(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

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

** The photo on this month's cover was taken by Tom Griffin. It shows the waterfall in Molers Cave, Jefferson Co, WV flowing steady after all the rains recently.

**** 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

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

2018

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 10 --- WVCC Banquet at the Brier Inn at
Lewisburg, WV – 7pm**

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

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

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 AUGUST ----- **\$17.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$6964.53**

**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

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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 8/8/18

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

Jerry gave the Treasurer's report.

Correspondence: MAKC – free caving & camping – Aug 10 & 11.

Old Business: Doc gave a report on the canopy poles.

Fall VAR – Sep 21-23 – New River Junction, Blacksburg, VA

New Business: Need 3 pulleys for the TSG vertical stash. Possibly wait until OTR to purchase pulleys.

Check about buying a brick with TSG on the brick for the NSS headquarters (\$100 for a large brick & \$50 for a small one).

Caving Trips: Chapman & Doc talked about the trip to Big Column Cave.

Speleo Saturday – Doc went to Hamilton, McCoys Mill, & Key Caves.

Tom talked about the NSS Convention in Helena, MT.

Tom, Bob, & Dave found a 40' pit that Bob found 30 years ago, Called the pit Santos Chimney. They also relocated Cascade Cave that Bob found 30 years ago also.

Upcoming Trips: A special trip to Molers Cave on Wed, Aug 22 at 6pm. Indian River Cave as a backup Cave.

There are reports of lots of water in Donaldson Cave!

OTR – Aug 28-Sep 3.

Vertical session on Wed, Aug 22 at 6pm.

Cave Bucks: \$17.00 – Sent to SCCI.

John adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted;
Paulette Bennett, Secretary
Tri-State Grotto

A Long Time Ago In A Cave Far, Far Away.....

by Donald 'Doc' Phillips

Maybe not that far away...

I found an ancient log entry from the 90's in my photo files that may interest not only some of the participants of Molers Wednesday night caving trip, but some cavers that may have visited the cave before gating.

CAVE LOG/Manifest

Vol. II, page 64

April 11, 1992, Saturday 2:30 - 5:30 PM

Party: Mark, Kevin, TJ, and myself.
Kevin drove. (All photos by Doc)

Molers Cave/Molers Annex Cave,
Charlestown/Harpers Ferry, WV

Once again, we made yet another trip to Molers Cave, which is a close drive from the metro area and remains a rather challenging cave for the beginning caver. My goal this time was to go beyond the Doodlebug Room and explore what was beyond that point. Upon arriving, we encountered Bob Johnson's hearing-impaired group. Bob told me that the last sump was now filled and presently impassable. On the way to the cave, another cave group gave a different report. The proof was in the visit.

Once we were at the entrance to the lower level, we ran across a group of Boy Scouts with their ragtag bunch of Scout Masters, one being a lady who looked like she wanted to be at home instead of toiling in the deep and muddy bowels of the earth. Upon arriving down stairs, we met even more Boy Scouts claiming that they were now 'very' lost. I did not argue with them because they seemed panicked enough and indicated the direction to the way out. Even though they had nice helmets, they were true amateurs in every sense of the word.

One thing the hearing-impaired team and the Boy Scouts did for us was consume all the fresh air in the lower level which slowed us down and with our chests heaving and a ringing in the ears, bugged out of the lower passage. Once back upstairs we gasped for air and enjoyed total darkness for a while. The air felt fresh and very wonderful once we were out of the cave.

The owner of the cave asked us to move a corn crib to a shelter out of the elements whereupon I enquired if he had another cave on his property. He told us of a small cave which is about thirty-five feet long and ended in a small room running just under the house and warned us that something might be still living in it. At the entrance of the cave, the scent of urine was so strong that it stole our crawling courage and we headed back to the car for a tick pull and an all you can eat salad at Wendy's in Charlestown.

This trip was a little disappointing for the caver in me but was spirited and fun, running into many other cavers. Fun trip.

This concludes the 1992 report.

I should mention that a photo student of mine and I revisited the cave on November 29, 1992 and we made it all the way to the Needle Room in the back of the cave. That was the last time I visited Molers until August 22 of this year.

This time the cave entrance was obstructed by a huge gate imbedded in a giant slab of concrete. That was the first disturbance to my memory. Past the gate everything had a nature I did not recall or remember. The passage of time made this trip a whole new journey for me.

Inside there were no arrows on the walls and no marks leading to the lower passage. I did not recognize that passage or recollect what laid beyond the hole leading to the lower passage except for the last slide at the bottom. Today that slide landed me almost

face first deep in mud and I had to crawl through a small but active stream to get to the formation room. Our troop re-gathered at the there, noisy with water falling over the formations hanging from the ceiling creating a small but raucous waterfall. The mud was deep, deeper then I have ever experienced in Molers, and it was an adventure to get back up to the main passage.

Still, there was little I remembered from the last time I was there so many years ago except for the formation room. Getting out of the cave was uneventful but the truck ride back to cars, over hill and dale, was a treat.

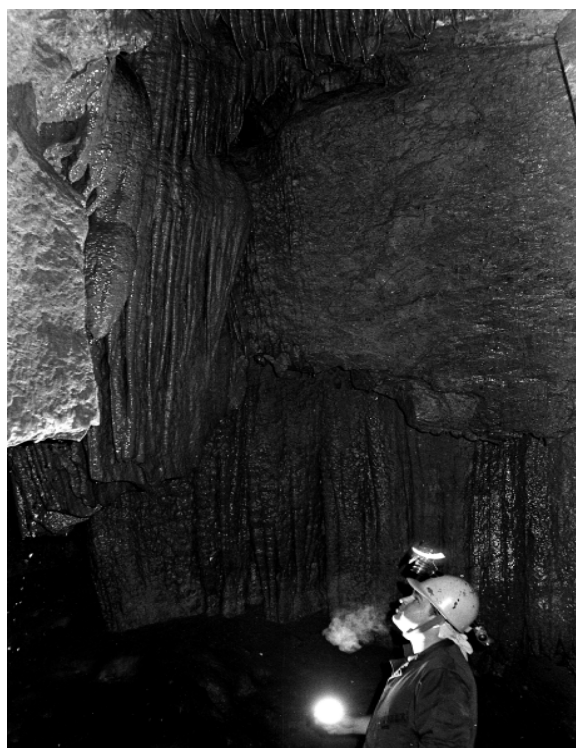
As I wrap up my report, I have to say that if you need to explore new caves, visit one you haven't been to in a decade or so. It is a humbling experience.



(Old Pic) Tree Root Jammed in Lower Level



(Old Pic) Moler Entrance W/O Gate



(Old Pic) Formation Room



(Old Pic) Pendant in Passage

Article: Mt Aetna Cave Notes

SOME BACKGROUND

In 1953, Joe Lawrence confirmed by letter, that Bernard Wilt would go on a caving expedition in 1954. He, along with Bob Handley and many others, explored Floyd Collins Crystal Cave in Kentucky and were there about ten days. In 1957 he bought Mount Aetna Cave (formerly a commercial cave) located in Washington County, Maryland.



Bernard Wilt before his 1954 trip

The cave had an entrance house, with doors that worked. The electrical lights in the cave worked. Bernard often drove up from Rockville, Maryland with his two children, Nancy and Jim, and camped in the cave. Pictures show Jim in sneakers by a formation in the 1960's. Bernard was going to open a nature park in 1965, with the cave as the central attraction but finances wouldn't allow.

Later, it broke Bernard's heart that damage was being done to his cave, so he finally had it sealed with concrete slabs.

Bernard died in 1978, leaving the cave to his wife and children. When the mother passed away, Nancy, being the oldest, decided that the property was to be sold, against the wishes of Jim. All six tracts of land, totaling 81 acres, were going to be sold to H.B. Mellott and the Beaver Creek Quarry. The sale was part of a will and took some time to come together. Jim's kids said to their dad, "We haven't even seen the cave!" While the cave was still in the family, Jim went up to the cave entrance and proceeded to show his kids where to punch through the concrete with a sledge hammer, thus opening the cave once again.



Jim Wilt in sneakers in the 60's

IT STARTED WITH A LETTER

October 15, 2004

Byron owned property in Mount Aetna on the corner of Route 66 and Mt Aetna road, adjoining the cave. Byron received a certified letter from the Beaver Creek Quarry. The same letter went to all the contiguous property owners. Receiving the letter meant that the quarry had bought the six lots and were applying for a thirty-year permit to expand the quarry. This, of course, included the cave.

So how did Jerry get involved?

Mary, Jerrys wife, has worked for Byron 22 years. Byron handed Mary the letter and said, "See if Jerry can do something with this." After a missed opportunity to see the cave in 1969, Jerry really wanted a trip into this cave!

RESEARCHING

October 26, 2004

The first thing Jerry did was to write a letter to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) stating three things. One was the state needed to conduct a biological inventory of the cave to see if there were any protected species. And the second item was a little belly-ache about cavers not being able to visit; thus, a serious photo trip was in order to document the cave to give viewers a sense of being there. And before signing off, Jerry asked for a public hearing.

So, Maryland put Jerrys requests into action. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (M-DNR) was called into service. Dan Feller was his inside contact. Dan was a caver and worked for the state. Through several phone calls, it was discovered there were no species that needed to be protected. Jerry heard the sad news from Dan, not the state.

Another thing Jerry did was to launch an email campaign among VAR cavers. There were 22 replies showing support for the cave. Jerry printed two copies of each reply; one to keep and the other to give to the quarry owners at the hearing. He also found out the house and barn on the property were on the Washington County register of historical places. In addition, there was the site of the 1700's canon forge contiguous to the cave property. Jerry also found out that H.B. Mellott donated money to Roscoe Bartlett's campaign, which became helpful at the hearing.

THE FIRST HEARING

Date: November 15, 2004

210 people showed up at the Washington County Court House. 208 of the attendees were against the quarry expansion, and I knew some of them. Several of them spoke of cracked foundations and discolored water. Only two showed up showing support for the cave and wanting to ask questions.

Doug Love was from Beltsville, Maryland, and Jerry a caver from Tri-State Grotto who lived locally. Doug offered a management plan, and Jerry offered a gate. The quarry showed interest in saving the cave but according to the map they showed us, the quarry rim was going to get dangerously close. Have you ever seen what dynamite and stone grinders can do? It was decided not to give the quarry, the emails. As Doug spoke, he had to state his name and address, the same as Jerry. All comments were tape recorded. At the end of the hearing, Jerry talked to President H.B. Mellott. He nodded towards Jerry as if to say, "He was OK." Carl Boyer was the vice-president who saw the nod, was Jerrys contact with the quarry from then on.

THE SECOND HEARING

Date: December 13, 2004

On the campus of Hagerstown Community College, in the Kepler Theater, there was something like 500 impassioned people there against the quarry. By this time, it looked like support for the quarry was squashed. So, Jerry stopped attending the hearings. It was found out at this hearing that the canon forge, and the old historical house were not to be considered.

I found out later that there was a total of five hearings.

THE TRIP

Date: February 3, 2005

Somewhere during this time, Jerry received another letter advertising a trip into the cave on a certain date and he was invited. Jerry was all smiles! He quickly embraced the idea and polished the lens on his camera! When opening the letter, he thought to himself, "How did the quarry get my home address?" Then he remembered being tape-recorded at the hearing. Walking on eggshells, he called the number shown in the letter and asked if he could bring two guests with him. Mellott's agreed so all interested parties needed to take off work. Jerry took Mary, and a good friend Bob. When arriving, it was found that Doug Love was invited too. We signed carefully worded waivers. Being rewarded were the two that spoke in favor at the first hearing. Carl Boyer led the trip with a Coleman lantern.



Participants of the 1st photo trip



Notebook & DVD

Many pictures were taken by Jerry and Doug that they shared with each other. This small group found out that the Maryland Department of the Environment was going to make a trip the following week. MDE put their pictures online.

February 23, 2005, Jerry wrote Carl a thank you letter with proposals, pictures, drawings and a gift of the *NSS Magazine*.

THE DVD

Date: May 2005

It was after the trip that Jerry started putting together pictures. He visited Jim Wilt in Montgomery County several times. Together, they were able to piece together some history of the cave, starting with the commercial adventure. It seems as though Mt Aetna Cave was open only briefly in the 1930's, perhaps just one season. There was a map of the Nature Park with its announcement in the *Herald Mail* (October 5, 1965). There was a young picture of Bernard just before his 1954 adventure in Kentucky. Jim had a lot of pictures from the Wilt era, which he shared for history and the DVD. Sometime around May 2005, the DVD was ready. A cover was made for the jacket, and the DVD has been shown in public perhaps four times.

THE GATE

Date: October 2006

Jerry sent Carl pictures of Donaldsons and Cave Mountain Caves. And drawings that included rebars and smaller angle iron to be built under larger angle iron. Carl told Jerry there were plenty of folks at the quarry that could fabricate the gate. He had every chance to fabricate one from those illustrations. However, they couldn't find the time and eventually allowed the Virginia Region (VAR) cavers to build the gate. It took more than a year of lolly-gaging by the quarry.

The quarry only allowed a small group of eight people to build the gate. Jerry set up the gating trip but decided not to help, giving his opportunity to attend, to someone else. Those eight people were Craig Hindman (VAR President), Carol Tiderman (NSS Board of Directors), Bob Hoke (PSC), Bob Bennett (TSG), Meredith Weburg (BATS), Judy & JC Fisher (TSG) and Jim McConkey (Baltimore).



The gate

The gate turned out small. In the photograph, the reader is looking down on a flat opening leading to a stairway. The gate only covers the break through the concrete floor.

IN RETROSPECT

There were numerous newspaper articles and opinions (mostly against) that appeared in the *Herald Mail*.

December 14, 2004 Quarrel over Quarry, by Gregory Simmons.

December 19, 2004 Quarry quandary another example of why it pays to plan ahead, by Tim Rowland.

January 9, 2005 Stop the quarry; preserve Aetna's lifestyle, by Claudia Eklund.

February 6, 2005 Quarry using bad tactics for bad result, by Allen Dean.

April 5, 2005 Planning Commission vote: Say 'no' to quarry expansion, by Tara Reilly.

July 23, 2005 Report received after record closed on zoning change request, by Tara Reilly.

August 26, 2005 Property owners ask court to review decision on quarry, by Tara Reilly.

These articles are just to name a few. Apparently, there were two groups looking at the permit. It was heard first by the Washington County Planning Commission who would make a recommendation to the County Commissioners. But it was the County Commissioners who approved the permit. Here is a quote from Tara Reilly,

"The approval went against the recommendation of the Washington County Planning Commission, which thought the commissioners should have denied the request."

THE PERMIT WAS ISSUED

July 5, 2006, a letter addressed to Jerry came in the mail talking of another public hearing to be held on July 27, 2006. Jerry didn't go to this one. The permit was issued, and a letter came from the MDE on November 6, 2006.

Q. What happened to Byron's property?

A. The state approached him and bought some of his land. There is a traffic circle there now.

Q. How do I get a trip into Mount Aetna Cave?

A. At the time of this writing, the quarry has changed leadership. The name is the same as before, 'Beaver Creek Quarry', but is under different leadership. It's possible that if one were to ask really nice, to get survey trip into the cave.

It took two years from the time Jerry received the first letter, to get the gate installed.

That's the way he remembers the story!

Jerry B NSS 51562FE August 2018





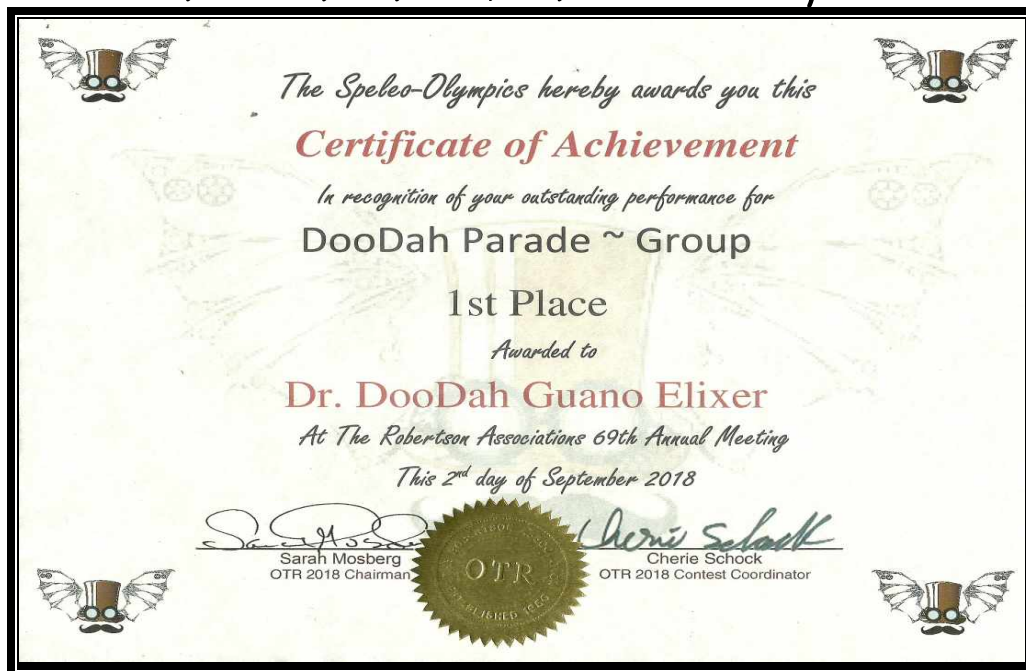
CAVIN CALENDAR

SEPT 8TH - OCTOBER 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11 PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12  MEETING 700 PM	Sep 13	Sep 14	Sep 15
Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19 Vertical session - James Rumsey - 6pm	Sep 20	Sep 21 Fall VAR, New River Jcnctn, Blacksburg, VA	Sep 22 Fall VAR, New River Jcnctn, Blacksburg, VA 
Sep 23 Fall VAR, New River Jcnctn, Blacksburg, VA	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28 Fall MAR, Rupert Cave, PA	Sep 29 Fall MAR, Rupert Cave, PA
Sep 30 Fall MAR, Rupert Cave, PA	Oct 1	Oct 2	Oct 3	Oct 4 Fall TAG Cave-In - Little River, AL	Oct 5 Fall TAG Cave-In - Little River, AL	Oct 6 Fall TAG Cave-In - Little River, AL
Oct 7 Fall TAG Cave-In - Little River, AL	Oct 8 COLUMBUS DAY	Oct 9	Oct 10  Meeting 7pm - Annual Auction	Oct 11	Oct 12	Oct 13
Oct 14	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17 Vertical session - James Rumsey - 6pm	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20 Bridge Day

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



1ST Place Certificate for the Doo Dah Parade at OTR!

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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

