

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**DYERS CAVE, HARDY CO, WV**

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**#83**

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**FULL MEMBERSHIP ----- \$10.00 (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 David Smallwood. It shows none other than me in a very tight (for me) passage leading to the Water Fall Room in Dyers Cave.

\*\*\*\* 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 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!**



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# CAVE EVENTS

## 2019

AUG 2-4 --- Indiana Cave Capers, Marengo, IN  
AUG 7 ---- HH Dig – 3pm – See John for info –  
Come when you can even if it is 6 or 7pm.  
AUG 12 --- National Middle Child Day  
AUG 13 ---- LEFT HANDERS DAY  
AUG 14 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm  
AUG 16 ---- Elvis Died  
AUG 19 - Gate Church Mt Cave – see Tom for info  
AUG 24 ---- Special trip into Molers Cave – Open  
to Grotto members only! – 12pm  
AUG 24 --- 2nd Annual Baker Quarry Kayak /  
Float trip for August 24th? Gate will be  
opened between 9-10 AM on Saturday.  
Contact Brent ([bjefferson22@gmail.com](mailto:bjefferson22@gmail.com))  
for further information  
AUG 29 - SEP 2 --- OTR  
AUG 31 ---- Doo Dah Parade – 10am  
AUG 31 --- Trip to Poor Farm Cave Pocahontas Co  
AUG 31 --- Polyester Power Hour – 1pm  
AUG 31 --- WVASS meeting – 630p  
SEP 1 ---- OTR Yard Sale – 9am  
SEP 1 ---- OTR River Party – 1pm  
SEP 2 ---- LABOR DAY  
SEP 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
SEP 11 --- 9-11 PATRIOT'S DAY!!!  
SEP 14 --- Pre-Registration for Fall VAR ends!  
SEP 20-22 --- Fall MAR – Shippensburg, PA  
SEP 22 --- FALL EQUINOX  
SEP 26-29 --- Fall VAR, Friars Hole  
OCT 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
OCT 10-13 --- Fall TAG Cave-In – Menlo, GA  
OCT 14 --- Columbus Day  
OCT 19 --- Bridge Day  
OCT 30 --- Devil's Night  
OCT 31 --- All Hallow Eve (Halloween)  
OCT 31 --- National Knock Knock Joke Day  
NOV 1 --- Day of the Dead  
NOV 3 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
NOV 10 --- Vivian Monger's Birthday (Owner of  
Jones Quarry)  
NOV 11 --- Veterans Day  
NOV 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm  
NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkins Day  
NOV 28 --- Thanksgiving Day

NOV 29 --- Black Friday!  
DEC 7 --- TSG Christmas Party – 6pm - Bedington  
Ruritan Club  
DEC 21 --- Winter Solstice  
DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve  
  
DEC 25 --- Christmas Day  
DEC 31 --- New Year's Eve  
DEC 31 --- Bat Ball, Huntsville, AL – 6pm

### \*\*\*\*\* 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 JUL ----- **\$28.01**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7261.68**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

**The money was sent to MAKC.**

**Keep It Coming!**

## WEBSITE & GIVING LINKS

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/)

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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 AUGUST

Jerry Bowen, John DiCarlo, Julie Garvin, Benjamin Harris, Shawn Harris, Carol Jackson, Davis Knox, Shannon Griffin Miranda, Jordan Walthers

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BATTY

# REPORTS

TSG Meeting (14 people in attendance)  
7/10/2019

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
Elysia gave the Treasurer's Report.  
Doc reported the minutes of last month's meeting June 12, 2019.

Announcements: TSG member Bill Jackson was accepted as a 'Fellow of the NSS'. Tri-State Grotto has four NSS Fellows that were present at the meeting also.

Committee Report: The pole project is almost complete. Some poles cleaned up nicely and some did not. The main concern is that strength may be lost if over treated leaving the only option to replace the weak ones. A motion was passed to replace those poles. The project should be completed by OTR.

Helmets are in good condition and ready for use. Rumsey climbing is going to be held on July 17th.

New Business: Ashby Haines remarked that he can create or revamp TSG's old websites. An upgrade is sorely needed.

The club will continue being paperless with no generated hard copy of the 'Dead Dog Dispatch' for the time being.

There is a consideration of repairing the Donaldson Cave pavilion. The gate to the cave has been found open on more than one occasion - at this point and a new lock was suggested. The area is sprayed for poison so use caution going to the cave. There is uncertainty if the grotto would furnish the lock.

### Old Business:

The honorary membership granted to the owner of Hollow Hill followed up with his contemporary email address so he can receive the newsletter was discussed. There was mention that there should be an NSS or VAR award presented to the owner, which is still inconclusive.

The Hollow Hill dig is going well with an abundance of cool moving air circulation in the excavation with loose soil discovered at probing. The project may require safety gear at this point. Wednesday night caving was at Dam #4 Cave which turned out to be a good kids trip. Twenty-two cavers visited the cave.

July 13th is the upcoming TSG picnic.

The next Wednesday night caving event will be held on July 24 at Crystal Grottoes Caverns.

<http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com/>

Saturday, August 24, at 10:00 am is the Molers Cave visit.

Doyle still has the cave information thumb drive. Mike Nally of Bluemont, Virginia, visited at the grottos meeting. He has been caving since high

school and is a TRA member. He takes pleasure in vertical work.

Old Timers Reunion theme is celebrating the 70's. It's the 70th OTR and Disco and other related events will be well represented. The event is held on Labor Day Weekend starting August 29.

The Waynesboro area has been revisited by Donald Arrowood who discovered a number of caves under a building and in the area in general.

Cave Bucks: \$28.01 was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted

Donald 'Doc' Phillips / 32922

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Good Summer Reads Involving Caves  
(when it's just to humid to go outside)  
By Donald 'Doc' Phillips

There's nothing like cracking open a good book during the hot summer months while waiting for the weather to become more people friendly and caving oriented. The air condition is humming, the days are longer and there is nothing really interesting streaming. Time to read.

In the last couple of months, I managed to polish off a couple of good titles I'd thought I'd share and review involving caving starting with Steven King's newest, *The Outsider*, which is a continuation of his last novel, *Mr. Mercedes*. The story involves, once again, Holly Gibney, who is an interesting character and wields a sock full of ball bearings known as the happy slapper. Holly and her cohort, Anderson, set out to destroy the bad guy in a cave known as The Marysville Hole which is somewhere in Steven King's Texas. King adds his own

unique touch to the underground world which I find quite interesting and novel being a long time King fan. His humor and 'edge of the seat' suspense is not only engaging but is also extremely refreshing.

I am presently reading *Tibetan Peach Pie*, which is a true account of Tom Robbins life written by the author. In *TPP* He reports taking a trip into a cave behind the university he is attending, Washington and Lee in Lexington, Virginia. Robbins and his classmates, armed only with flashlights, follow their science professor into a cave behind the school. It's an entertaining account and a good example of spelunking. Read the book and find out what happens even though I consider Tom's writing style over wordy and way to verbose.

Last of all is the classic novel of I Robot - *The Caves of Steel*: a science fiction novel by Isaac Asimov. It is a detective story involving the future full of metal tunnels and androids, it has really nothing to do with caving. It's still a fun read if you are a science fiction aficionado like myself. There is no mud, self-supplied lighting and is totally void of formations of any kind. On the high side, you find out what robots do after they eat human food. Misleading title but still fun.

If you read by book, Kindle, or Books on Tape (BOTS), these novels will keep that cave jones going when stuck inside. Stay cool, dry and enjoy!

## Caving in Iceland

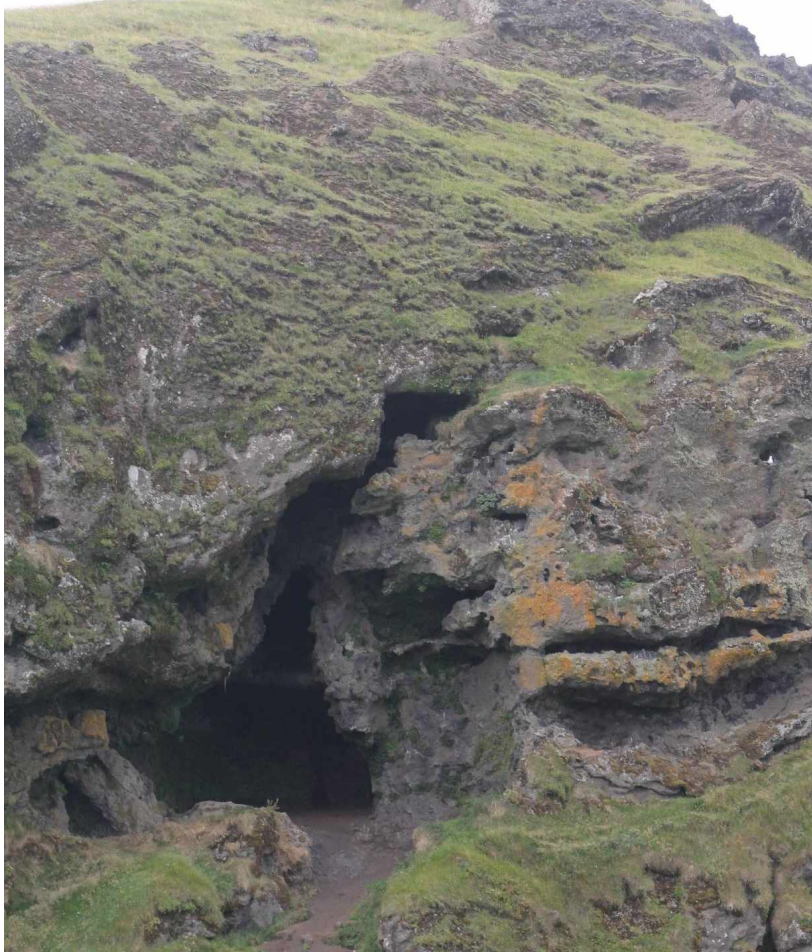
My family made a slight error when they asked for my input while planning our upcoming vacation to Iceland. Naturally, I jumped online to see what the caving potential was on the island.

Unfortunately, there is next to no karst on the island, so limestone caves were out of the question. However, the island has had a lot of volcanic activity so there were many lava tubes to explore. I asked my family if I could visit ONE wild lava tube while we were over there. They were more than kind enough to humor me with not one but three different lava tubes.

The first lava tube we visited is called Gjabakkahellir, also called Blue Berry Cave, located in Thingvellir National Park. My sister, Jessie, and my dad, Clint, were willing to join me. The cave was about 1000 feet long and was walking for most of the trip. There were really only a few places where you would even need to use your hands. Even though it was early August you could still see some snow hiding in cracks between breakdown. We initially thought that we would have to turn around, but at the last second, I spotted light from a second entrance. We were surprised to find out that we had emerged on the other side of the road that we had parked on!

The cave had some formations in it, which resembled stalactites, but I am sure were formed in a different process than limestone caves. I was pretty content with myself. I could now say that I had caved in

**Shawn above the entrance to Loftsalahellir (Clint Hogbin)**



**Jessie in Gjabakkahellir (Clint Hogbin)**

Iceland. Returning to our scheduled vacation was a little difficult due to closed roads, but we made it work.

After visiting two waterfalls (Barnafoss and Hraunfossar) we decided to head to another “nearby” lava tube system, Surtshellir. This is the longest lava tube system in the country and is about

3.5 kilometers in length. It was formed in a lava flow that occurred around the time of settlement of Iceland (900 A.D.). The system has over ten entrances and four of them are on the Surtshellir side of the system. This cave was even more massive and impressive than Gjabakkahellir. At first, we visited the western section of the cave, which was very cold. Despite our several layers we all commented on the chilly nature of the cave. This



section contained the only real mud we saw in all the caves

As far as formations go, we saw some nice ice formations. They had started to melt in the center, so they had small pools of water within the formation that would splash around a lot when water dripped into them. There were some more pronounced stalactites. The most interesting thing we would see would be the pitch-black walls at the end of the cave. We then quickly returned to relative warmth at the first entrance. Heading east we were able to see the other 3 entrances, each of which was massive. The passages connecting the entrances were easily 30 feet wide by 40 feet tall. Traversing the cave was pretty easy since it was almost all breakdown.

The cave was located in the middle of a 52 kilometer lave flow and the only access to it was a narrow winding road that could not be traversed with any real speed. I had managed to successfully delay the progress of our trip.

After getting us caught back up with our itinerary I quietly pushed my caving agenda again. This time we would visit Grotagja Cave. My mom, Chris, joined us for this cave trip. This cave's claim to fame was that it was the set piece for a scene in the Game of Thrones series. The cave itself is not very long and contains 4 different entrances. It is a combination of a lava tube and a tectonic cave. The coolest part of the cave is the hot spring that pools up in the bottom of the main room. There was probably 150' total of passage in the cave, but the steamy pool added a lot of aesthetical value.

On the last day we were closer to the coast and we stopped to see another cave called Loftsalahellir. Despite the very impressive entrance, the cave didn't have 50' of accessible passage. The back walls of the cave were coated in small four-inch-long ferns. What was more interesting was the history of the cave as an assembly location for the local farmers. At one point in its history it had even been walled off, but to my knowledge the reason is not known.

All in all, the caves never demanded too much of us, but we weren't interested in any terrible punishment on our vacation. Instead, we enjoyed some really nice wide and tall passages along with lots of breakdown hiking.



Jessie & Shawn in Surtshellir (Clint Hogbin)



Grotagia Thermal Cave (Clint Hogbin)



Shawn in one of the entrances of Surtshellir  
(Clint Hogbin)



# **GAMING PHOTOS**



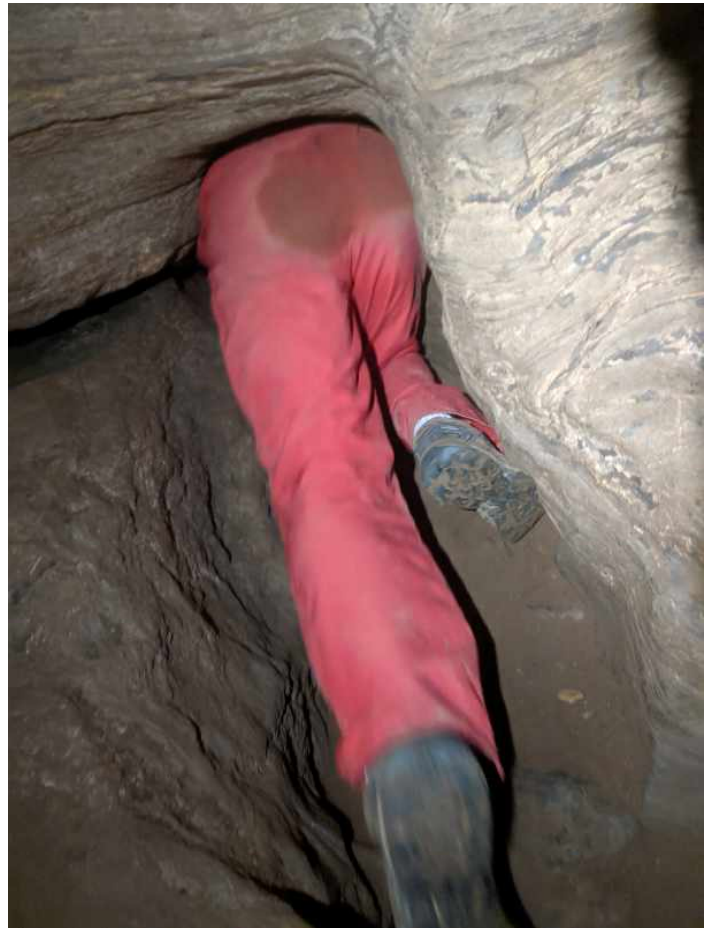
Dyers Survey Crew



Bob



Nikki



What a lot of the passage looked like!  
All photos by David Smallwood.



Tom





Typical passage in Where-The-Hell-Is-It  
(Photo by Elysia Mathias)



Hargobind Khalsa watching us dig



Nice arched entrance to W-T-H-I-I Cave  
(Photo by Gary Mathias)



Doyle Garvin used the hammer drill to bust up  
rocks that were in the way!



Typical bottle in sinkhole (Photo by Elysia Mathias)



Jerry grabbing bucket from Doc as Adam digs  
(All 3 photos by John DiCarlo)





Jerry bought this historical envelope. It was advertised on Ebay.



Jerry was hiking in Colorado recently



Jerry at the Priest Overlook on the Appalachian Trail



Crystal Grottoes (Ashby Haines)

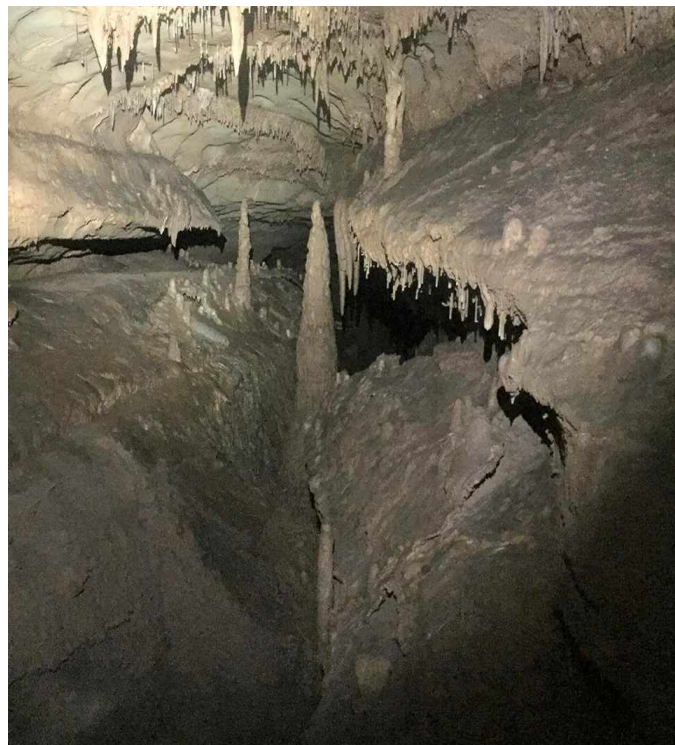


Crystal Grottoes (Bob Bennett)





Secret Cave (Ashley Hitchcock)



Poor Farm Pocahontas Co (Kevin Hughes)



Big Column Cave (Johnny Robinson)



Poor Farm (Elysia Mathias)



Cricket Maze Cave (Nathan Roser)



# CAVIN CALENDAR

## AUGUST 11TH - SEPTEMBER 24TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 11	Aug 12 NATIONAL MIDDLE CHILD DAY	Aug 13 LEFT HANDERS DAY	Aug 14  Meeting 7pm	Aug 15	Aug 16 Elvis Died	Aug 17
Aug 18	Aug 19 Gate Church Mt Cave, VA	Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24 Molers Cave (Grotto Members Only) 12 Noon
Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29 OTR	Aug 30 OTR	Aug 31 OTR Doo Dah Parade 10am WVASS Meeting 6pm Poor Farm Cave
Sep 1 OTR OTR Yard Sale 9am River Party 1pm	Sep 2 OTR LABOR DAY	Sep 3	Sep 4	Sep 5	Sep 6	Sep 7
Sep 8	Sep 9	Sep 10	Sep 11  Meeting 7pm PATRIOT'S DAY	Sep 12	Sep 13	Sep 14 FALL VAR Pre-Registration Ends
Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20 Fall MAR - Shippensburg, PA	Sep 21 Fall MAR - Shippensburg, PA



# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Casa Om Whittings Neck Trip (Photo by Adam Haines)



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