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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 shows beautiful blue crystals in Blue Spring Cave, White Co, TN. The photo was used with the permission from Ryan Maurer, 2019.

\*\*\*\* Don't forget, the <u>JONES QUARRY BOOKLET</u> 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 <a href="mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net">gimpycaver@comcast.net</a>
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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FEB 2 ---- GROUND HOG DAY

FEB 3 ---- Ridgewalk, Berkeley Co-See Bob

FEB 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY

FEB 18 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY

FEB 20 --- Vertical Session – James Rumsey – 6pm

MAR 2 ---- DAY of PRAYER

MAR 5 ---- FAT TUESDAY (MARDI GRAS)

MAR 9 ---- Norman Cave-see Bob or Tom

MAR 10 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME **STARTS** 

MAR 13 -- TSG meeting - 7pm

MAR 14 --- PI DAY

MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell (Molers) - Birthday

MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY

MAR 21 --- INCREDIBLE KID DAY

MAR 22 --- WORLD WATER DAY

MAR 25 --- MD DAY

APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY

APR 2 --- PB&J DAY

APR 7 ---- NATIONAL BEER DAY

APR 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

APR 15 --- TAX DAY

**APR 17 --- BAT APPRECIATION DAY** 

**APR 19 --- GOOD FRIDAY** 

**APR 21 --- EASTER** 

APR 22 --- EARTH DAY

APR 26 --- ARBOR DAY

MAY 1 --- MAY DAY

MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE DE MAYO

MAY 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

MAY 11---- Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day)

MAY 12 --- MOTHERS DAY

MAY 18 --- ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 27 --- MEMORIAL DAY

JUN 7-9 --- BUBBLE CAVE WEEKEND

JUN 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY

JUN 16 ---- FATHERS DAY

JUN 17-21 --- NSS Convention – Cookville, TN

JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE

JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY

JUL 10 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm

JUL 13 --- TSG Picnic – 12 Noon

JUL 18 ---- NOT DOG DAY

JUL 28 ---- PARENT'S DAY

AUG 13 ---- LEFT HANDERS DAY

AUG 14 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm

AUG 16 ---- Elvis Died

**AUG 29 – SEP 2 --- OTR** 

AUG 31 ---- Doo Dah Parade - 10am

SEP 2 ---- LABOR 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 DECEMBER ----- \$30.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7110.11

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

## The money was sent to MAKC. **Keep It Coming!**



	Tri-State Grotto <u>www.tristategrotto.net/</u>								
	VAR <u>www.varegion.org/</u>								
	NSS <u>www.caves.org/</u>								
	NSS Convention 2017 http://nss2017.caves.org/								
	OTR <u>www.otr.org/</u>								
	MAR <u>www.caves.org/region/mar/</u>								
	WVCC <u>www.wvcc.net/</u>								
	Bob's Web Site <u>www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/</u>								
	Jerry's Cave Web Site								
http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/									
	Bob Gulden <u>www.caverbob.com/home.htm/</u>								
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/								
	www.ammatedknots.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 JANUARY

Don Arrowood, Erek Bennett, Paulette Bennett, Michael Cosey, Tyler Cosey, Isabella Dixon, Barry Duncan, Terri griffin, Adam Haines, Malakai Hanson, Jennifer Imes, Ryan Sykes, Barbara Walthers, Will Walthers, Tyler Ward, Amanda Willis, Todd Zimmerman





TSG Meeting (12 people in attendance) 1/9/19

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Elysia gave her first Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: Doc reports no activity on the tent poles due to cold and freezing weather. Helmets remain in good and clean condition and has been given the go ahead to purchase one 200 lumen, three AA cell Hyper Tough head lamp. John showed his new multi LED light that employs 6 AA batteries. Following was a dissertation on rechargeable batteries. Bob reported that the TSG library, consisting of assorted caving publications, movies, and past

Dead Dog Dispatch newsletters which are now available on email and/or pickup.

There was a discussion concerning Baker Quarry concerning on gate repair and further installations. Members of TSG are entertaining the idea of returning to the explorative excavation under the Adam Stevens House in the hopes that the continuous rain of the previous months could have changed the situation for the better. A discussion of rumored possible caves connecting parts of Martinsburg underground beginning with the Adams Stevens House continued.

New Business: General Adam Stephens day will be held May 11, 2019. Volunteers for giving tours was discussed.

On the third weekend in May, Kentucky's Great Saltpeter Cave will have an open house event which attracts approximately 400 people. Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve is approximately five miles north of Livingston.

Spring VAR 2019 will be hosted by James River Grotto at Camp Powhattan Boy Scout Camp near Wytheville, VA.

There were sixty-two attendees at the 2018 annual Christmas party and special thanks go out to Bob and Paulette for setting up the event. The 2019 preferred date for the Christmas party has been already taken; never-the-less a vote resulted for December 7th of this year. Discussed were alternative locations to have the party in case this date is also closed.

James Rumsey climbing practice continues starting January 16.

<u>Trips:</u> Terry visited Elkhorn Mountain Cave with a troop reporting that even though the water made the cave 'very pretty', it blocks their progress to explore most of the cave.

Donaldson Cave is flooded at the lower sections halting open passage to the second room and further.

Howell Cave has water spouting from 3 areas. Adam reported sliding into deeper than usual water in Molers Cave, thinking that the depth was only going to be ankle deep and finding it almost reaching mid-chest.

Bob, Tom, Adam, Gary and Doc were successful in finding Hideaway Cave. Also, many other

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possible digs into sinkholes were inspected with barb wire and trash removed in one.

Tom, Adam, Jerry and Doc discovered that the path to Indian River Cave has been cleared of all vegetation resulting in an exposed transverse. The path itself still remains intact and rules of visiting the cave still remains the same.

Stories were told of the flooding in Carols Crack Cave and Culverson Creek Cave amongst others. A trip is planned for Norman Cave on February 9, with a possible trip to Sharps Cave on January 27

#### Cave Bucks: \$19.00 sent to MAKC

January is the 33rd birthday of Tri-State Grotto. Refreshments and a birthday cake were enjoyed after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

On a personal note: It's a privilege to announce that this report is my first entry as Secretary to TSG. I have big shoes to fill after Paulette's nine-year position and look forward to the job. Many thanks.

Respectfully submitted Donald 'Doc' Phillips Secretary Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

## All Things Considered By Shawn Hogbin

This weekend trip to TAG took a few things

falling into place. Terry McClanathan mentioned to in the fall that he wanted to take a trip to see Marion O. Smith sometime around the holidays. Additionally, my longtime friend Edgar Villarreal was visiting family in Texas over winter break and decided to buy a car. He was hesitant to drive 22 hours all the way from Austin to Morgantown all in one go, so we coordinated that he would stop at Marion's house the same weekend we planned to be there.

Terry left his home in Maryland and I left my apartment in Morgantown at 9:30 PM on 1/4/19. We met in Wytheville, VA and we carpooled the rest of the way to Marion's. We were not 30 minutes down the road and quite the hazard presented itself. We were headed down the road and dealing with some heavy rain. While traveling at interstate speeds, a rock the size of about half of a standard cinder block appeared in our lane. There were pretty much only three options. 1.) Swerve the car and inevitably end up crashed in a ditch. 2.) Center the car over the rock and murder everything under the car or 3.) Try to get as far over as we can without swerving. Choice three was the only logical option. The rock missed the front tire, but sadly claimed the life of the back tire. The tire was popped and even worse the wheel itself was badly bent. The rest of the trip was made limping to Sparta, TN at 55-60 MPH on the doughnut spare.

For us, the most shocking part of this ordeal is how difficult it is to obtain a replacement wheel so far away from home on a moment's notice. Chasing down a wheel to match the car's make and model took easily three hours. Had it not been for the help and patience of Sharon Jones, Marion, John Stembel (Rocco) and Ed it would have taken so much longer. Once the wheel situation was in order, we made our way to Blue Springs Cave.

Our goal for the trip was to make it to the Porcupine Passage, which is located near the heart of TAG's longest cave. We entered the cave around noon local time and made our way through the entrance passage. You pass a lot of neat things on your way through the entrance area. There is a wooden bridge that spans a pool and a metal suspension bridge that crosses a canyon. Along the way you are enjoying lots of classic speleothems. Some of the widest draperies I have seen were in this passage. After a while, the formations fade and you have to do 2 wide crawls.

The next part of our journey was the BO Passage. This passage is approximately 1000' long and alternates mostly between hands-and-knees crawling and army crawling. We all made it to the other side and continued on our way to the Mega Junction. Along the way we stopped to appreciate the prehistoric jaguar tracks that had been preserved in mud. After walking through a lot of borehole, some of which was decorated with occasional

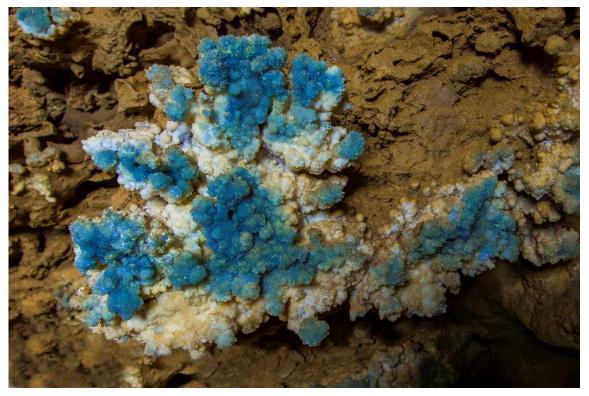
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gypsum formations, we arrived at the Mega Junction. The Mega Junction is a four-way intersection of two large borehole passages that results in a room that is 100' tall and easily 50' wide.



Incredible blue crystals in Blue Spring Cave (Photo by Ryan Maurer, 2019

From the Mega Junction we arrived at the bottom of the 84' climb to get to into the Porcupine Passage. Once at the start of this passage we took a side lead that eventually led to Celestite Crystal formations. These crystals are colored a combination of white and blue (yes, blue). That was certainly a very interesting experience and it took a while for me to want to exit the room.

The remainder of the Porcupine Passage did not disappoint. It was covered in gypsum needles, flowers, and just generally coated in gypsum. You made sure to go very slow not only because of caution but also because of pure stupor. We made it to the end of the Porcupine Passage and started our trip out. We made good time despite getting turned around in borehole for a bit. We exited the cave just in time to make it back to Sparta for some dinner.

The next day the plan was to go visit some caves that were new to Terry that were all

concentrated in one area. However, this had to be altered a bit since Ed wanted to get back to Morgantown at a reasonable hour since the first day of classes for him was the next day. Terry and Marion helped us craft a plan to visit two caves that

are only a few minutes apart and on our journey home. First, we visited Thunderhole, which is a wide 128' near entrance pit in Putnam County TN. We just bounced the pit and headed to our next cave, Dan's Abyss.

Dan's Abyss is a nice 70' drop that starts off tight and quickly opens up into a large room with a good amount of formations. Almost everything is a classic speleothem. A hefty portion of the floor of

the room is flowstone. This was a nice cave to cap out the trip and we left Tennessee's warm weather behind. Fortunately, the trip back to Morgantown was not near as eventful as the drive down.

### P.S.

If you would like to see what the formations and passages that we visited in Blue Spring looked like I would recommend that you visit Ryan Maurer's Flickr album for Blue Spring Cave. While this was an entirely different trip nearly 2 years ago, the trip he took was incredibly similar to ours, blue formations included. Link:

 $\frac{https://www.flickr.com/photos/131878030@N04/al}{bums/72157663014835649/with/24185378810/}$ 



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## **Norman Cave Trip**

On February 9<sup>th</sup> 8 of us from different directions headed to Greenbrier County West Virginia for a trip to Norman Cave. Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Dave from the cave Lucas, Nina, a friend named Mike on his second trip. Elysia, Gary and Jeff Hajenga.

We all started down around 5:30 in the morning arriving at the Walmart around 9:45 We all headed into Walmart to take their bathroom breaks and so Dave could buy the wrong donuts. As we were standing around, we saw other cavers come in, most likely to buy batteries since they were carrying their helmets.

After everyone gathered, we headed towards Renick WV, dropped off one vehicle to make room at the cave. When we arrived it was about 25 to 27 degrees. A colorful picture of everyone wearing very clean caving gear was taken. About 10:45 we headed in the cave with Bob leading the way. Since I didn't remember anything about this cave it was like being in it for the first time.

While everyone headed down the steep hill of breakdown, Bob pointed out to me the second hole to work towards, this was the easier lead to the water level while others took the scenic route through the breakdown. Once we were down at the water level the sound of the waterfall was very loud, there we spent a fair amount of time taking pictures. This is where Dave took the lead showing us the way to the Great White Way.

We spent what seemed most of our time in the water which seemed normal for this and last year's cave trips. While traveling though the water we looked for Crayfish and Salamanders, a few pictures were taken. Other photo ops were made with one going under shelfs, hands through hole formations and bodies. As we headed farther in the cave, we came to the Great Wrong Way which some of us thought we were at the Great White Way. Lots of formations, Jeff pointing out Calcified Coral, Very long soda straws and lots of flow stone.

No one complained of being cold, all seemed to have a good time exploring looking at different leads not knowing where anything went other than straight ahead. We finally made it to the end of the Great Wrong Way in about 2.5 to 3 hours. We had a good idea we were at the beginning of the Great White Way. We scrambled this area a little not being sure, we all made a decision this would be a good spot to head back.

The way back seemed to be a lot quicker even with the long runs of being bent over holding on to ledges while moving through the water up stream. The formation seemed a bit different obviously since we got a view of what we missed heading in. The water falls were running very fast looking very nice. When we made it back to the tall waterfall we knew exactly where to go. NOT. We climbed into breakdown that had nice small passages, it just did not lead out. Then someone said, we need to get above the water fall, that's when we made it out to the big breakdown room.

Everyone exited without incident. The sun was nice and warm about 35 degrees. Another picture for the after trip was taken and then headed to town to eat where a vote was taken to eat at a Mexican restaurant.

A very good, fun trip, long day. Made it home about 2215 that evening.

#### Submitted by Tom Griffin



Colorful before pic (Photo by Dave ?)



Top of waterfall-Norman (Elysia Mathias)



Norman Waterfall (Tom Griffin)



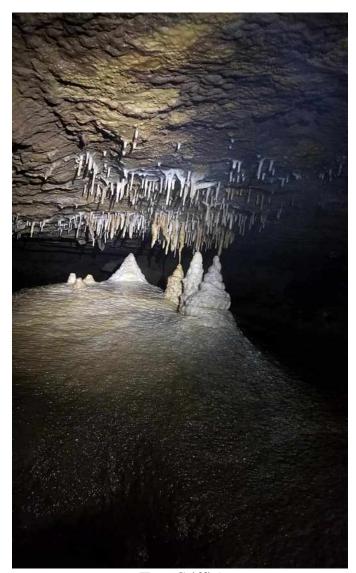
(Elysia Mathias)



(Tom Griffin)



The Lunch Room (Elysia Mathias)



(Tom Griffin)



The Great Wrong Way (Tom Griffin)



Crayfish (Tom Griffin)

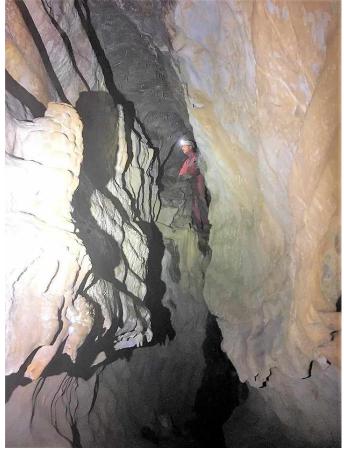


After pic (Elysia Mathias)





Donaldson Gate (Doc)



Clint in Dellingers (Shawn Hogbin)



Jones Quarry (Elysia Mathias)



Doc relaxing at vertical practice (Adam Haines)



Nina just hanging around (Elysia Mathias)



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			174			460	
	Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13  TRI-STATE  GROTTO  Meeting 7pm	Feb 14  VALENTINE'S DAY	Feb 15	Feb 16
	Feb 17	Feb 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY	Feb 19	Feb 20 Vertical session - James Rumsey - 6pm	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23
	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27 Wed Night Caving - Jones Quarry Cave - 6pm	Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2 DAY of PRAYER
	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5 FAT TUESDAY	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9
	Mar 10  DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13  TRI-STATE  GROTTO  Meeting 7pm	Mar 14 Dr Latterell (Molers Cave) Birthday PI DAY	Mar 15	Mar 16
	Mar 17  ST PATRICK'S DAY	Mar 18	Mar 19	Mar 20	Mar 21 INCREDIBLE KID DAY	Mar 22 WORLD WATER DAY	Mar 23

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The old frozen tongue trick! Ice at Alpena Cave. (Photo by Elysia Mathias)



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