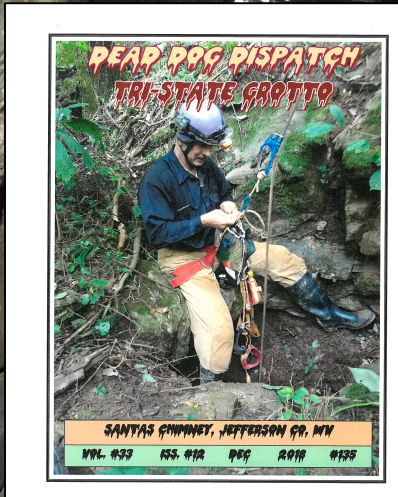


DEAR DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



DEAR DOG DISPATCH
TRI-STATE GROTTO

SANTAS CHIMNEY, JEFFERSON CO. WV

VOL. #33 ISS. #12 DEC 2018 #135

HO! HO! HO!

He's everywhere!

CHECK THE INSERT. LAST MONTH'S COVER SHOWED TOM
PREPARING TO RAPPEL SANTAS CHIMNEY LOOKING FOR
SANTA CLAUSE. SANTA WASN'T THERE BECAUSE HE
WAS IN CASCADE CAVE!

VOL. #34

ISS. #1

JAN

2019

#1

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**** The photo on this month's cover shows Santa Claus in Cascade Cave Jefferson Co, WV. Photo taken by Tom Griffin.**

**** 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

2019

JAN 1 ---- NEW YEAR'S DAY

JAN 5 ---- Whittings Neck – See Elysia or Tom

JAN 6 ---- Ridgewalk – Whittings Neck area – see Bob

JAN 9 ---- TSG meeting – 7pm

JAN 21 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

JAN 24 --- PEANUT BUTTER DAY

JAN 24 --- TSG BIRTHDAY – 33 years old!

FEB 2 ---- GROUND HOG DAY

FEB 12 ---- Fat Tuesday

FEB 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

FEB 14 --- VALENTINE'S DAY

FEB 18 --- PRESIDENT'S DAY

MAR 2 ---- DAY of PRAYER

MAR 10 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
STARTS

MAR 13 -- TSG meeting – 7pm

MAR 14 --- PI DAY

MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S 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 17-21 --- NSS Convention – Cookville, TN

JUN 18 --- FATHERS DAY

JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE

***** 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!

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

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GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

MONTH OF JANUARY

Eric Armer, Chris Coates, Jasmine Dixon, Adriana Duncan, Judy Fisher, Bob Gray, Stacy Hajenga, Keith Hammersla, Clint Hogbin, Fritz Kysar, David 'From the Cave' Lucas, Corey Majtyka, Tim McDougale, Todd Roberts, Earl Suitor, Bentley Sykes, Fiord`Aliza Vis, Trish Walthers, Minori Yoshida

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

REPORTS

TSG Meeting (14 people in attendance) 12/12/18

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
Jerry gave his last Treasurer's Report!

Old Business: Jerry gave a report on Silers.
Entrance has been closed. Has been sold.
Doc has all the long poles to work on. Too cold to do so!

One Grotto helmet light is bad. Trying to decide whether to stick with AA battery lights or go to the newer AAA battery lights.

Bob has no report on the TSG Library.

New Business: Tom has landowner papers that tells about different options.

Doc talked about historical things from Shippensburg & other places.

Cancelled JQ cleanup until spring.

Tom talked about other caves & sinkholes that need cleaned up near Cave Mt on National Forest land.

Trips: Bob did some ridgewalking.

Tom and a large group went to Endless and practiced vertical while there.

Doc & Adam went to Glade Cave. Very mussy!
Jerry & Terry went to John Griffins and other caves in KY including Great Saltpeter Cave.
Dec vertical session & Wed Night Caving were cancelled due to the Christmas season.

Cave Bucks: \$30 – Sent to MAKC

Elections:

Chair – John Di Carlo

V-Chair – Bob Bennett

Treasurer – Elysia Mathias

Secretary – Donald 'Doc' Phillips

The Christmas party is Sat, Dec 22nd from 6pm until 11pm at the Bedington Ruritan.

Jerry talked about Corey Hackley & the caves in MD.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Personal message from me!

“It has been a privilege for me to fill in as the TSG Secretary”. Of course I volunteered when no one else seemed to want to participate. Then the next couple of years I was elected. It's time for me to step aside and allow Doc the privilege. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Bennett

Secretary

Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Wednesday Night Caving Indian Cave

What does the trail look like now?

By John DiCarlo NSS# 25744

All photos but one by John DiCarlo

Whittings Neck, WV-For Wednesday Night Caving

We decided to check out the status of **Indian Cave**.

We had heard that the trail down to the cave was covered with trees that were cut down. We had also heard that you had to climb through downed tree trunks to follow the path.

Six O'clock came and Doc and I pulled into our parking spot. Adam Haines followed shortly followed by Jerry Bowen. We suited up and headed to the cave. Walking the long path to the cave, we speculated about what we would find.

We passed the front entrance to Whittings Neck Cave and were soon at the second entrance. We noticed we had strung out and waited here for Adam and Doc to catch up.

Pushing on, we arrived at the top of the cliff. We could see everything very well as the whole cliff side had been cleaned off of all the trees. Before, you really couldn't see much because of the over growth. Now you could see how scary it really is. It was a steep drop-off with what looked like a faint goat trail going across it.



I started making my way down with the others behind me. I thought as I went, "One wrong step and you're gone." I slowly made my way down to the cave entrance. Adam and Jerry showed up right behind me. We waited, and Doc never showed. Adam went back a little way looking for him and there was no sign. We figured that he decided it was too risky and stayed on top.



We said, "Well, we achieved our goal of checking out the trail to Indian Cave." But here we were standing at the entrance. We decided that we would make a quick trip to the back of the cave and out.

Jerry led us in, followed by me and then Adam. We had made our way into a few rooms when Jerry wanted to take a picture using the timer on his phone. After two shots we were on our way.



A few rooms later we had stopped to take some pictures when I looked up and noticed gold! There was pyrite on the ceiling. That was an interesting find.

We moved on to the big room and looked around there. Moving over, we continued down the passage to the back of the cave.



We soon headed back to the cars making sure we didn't get any mud on the blacktop where we parked. It was a successful trip. We made our goal!

Grottos Photos



Elysia at the top of the ladder In Whittings Neck
(Gary Mathias)

As we went to turn the trip, Jerry noticed a bat on the ceiling of an alcove. I had to take some pictures, as it looked weird to me. It reminded me of a monk with the hair on its back mostly missing, but hair on its sides. I hadn't seen anything like this before, so I wanted to document it. (Asking around, we have been told that this was probably from an injury.)

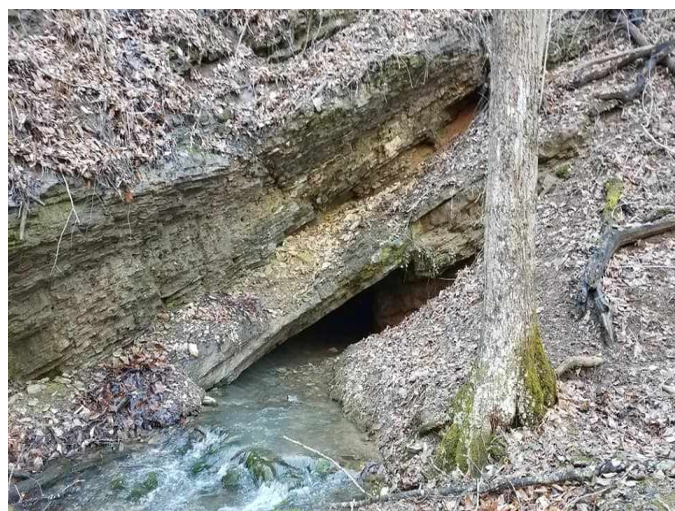
After taking our pictures, we turned the trip and headed out. We exited the lower entrance and climbed our way back up the cliff. We found Doc sitting at the top. Collecting him, we made our way back down the trail to Whittings Neck Cave. We stopped there so Doc could at least get into a cave tonight.



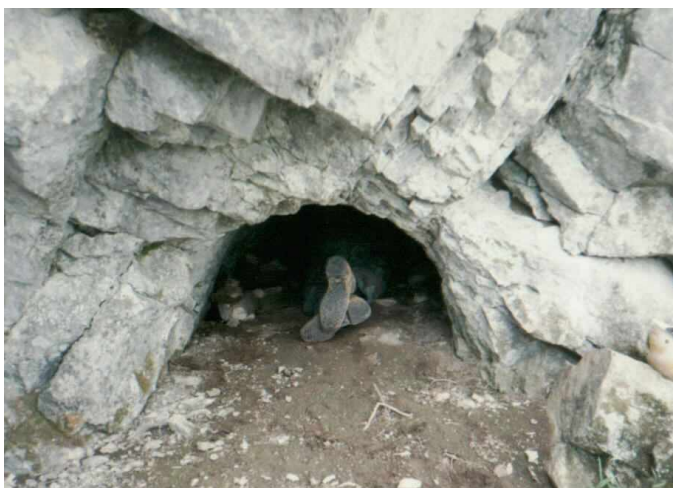
Doc poking around the spring below Hideaway
Cave (BB)



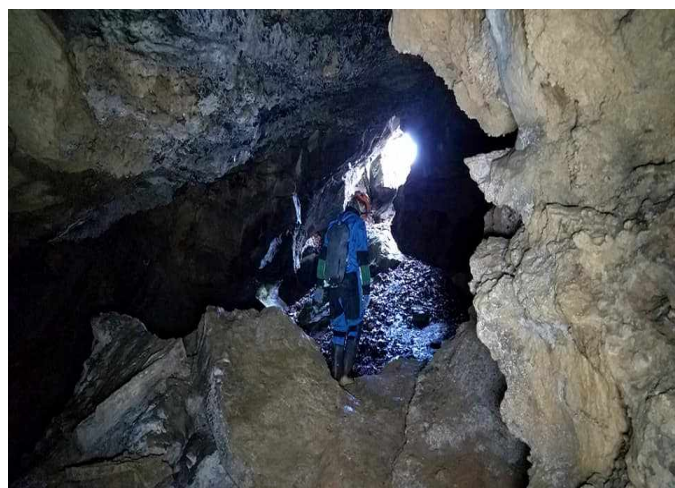
Shawns Hideaway (Recently by Tom Griffin)



Barbs (By Bob Edmonds)



Hideaway with Shawn's daddy's feet showing. (By Bob B over 20 years ago)
OK now tell me! Are they the same cave?



Church Mt Cave (By Bob Edmonds)



Nice sink with lots of wire-Whitings Neck area (BB)



The Christmas Party 2018 (Photo by John DiCarlo)

Starting the New Year off right

By Shawn Hogbin

At the beginning of 2018 my father Clint and I had the first trip of the New Year together. At the start of 2019, we decided that we start a tradition of caving together at the start of the New Year. We both wanted to go to a “new-to-us” cave. After some perusing Paxton’s Cave caught my attention. I asked some people that had been there about the nature of the cave and it became obvious that we would need a map. On the last day of 2018 a map was sent to me and the trip was scheduled for the first day of 2019.

We got up early anticipating the long drive down I-81. After 3 hours we stumbled out of the car and towards the landowner’s porch. We signed the logbook and informed the landowner of our intentions. We went back to the car where we donned our cave gear, dad was clad in his (in)famous pink cave suit.

The entrance to Paxton’s is quite picturesque, with three entrances located in one large sinkhole. A waterfall rolls down into the sinkhole and into two of the cave entrances. We took the dry route. Paxton’s is quite the mazy cave. It is a combination of joint-controlled passages coupled with breakdown. The map was a necessity. First, we made our way to the “Big Room” which is on the east side of the cave. Within a few minutes we were standing in the Big Room which is around 30’ high and over 50’ long and wide. In the north west corner of the room there is a high amount of nice speleothems. There are soda straws, helictites, and flowstone. After gawking for a bit we made our way back to the entrance.

The next goal was to get to the Breakdown Room. We were about to do this pretty easily and enjoyed a few of the helictites in that room. After this point our cave navigation skills really dimmed. We wanted to get to the First Formation Room. We took a passage out of the south/west side of the Breakdown room and ended up back at the entrance. Oops. It is important to point out that a few moments before we arrived back at the entrance my dad predicted we were going the “wrong way.” I blazed on ahead, not heeding to his correct advice.

We wanted to take another crack at getting to the First Formation Room, so back to the Breakdown Room we went. With a better sense of the cave we scouted down different holes within the room. After an embarrassingly long amount of time we found a heavily traveled mud crawl/ keyhole. I squirmed through and shortly after popped into the First Formation room (which is quite obvious when you get there). I came back to notify my dad of the correct route and we then enjoyed all the formation room had to offer. There were hundreds of helictites and soda straws. A large totem pole and a huge flowstone mound that nearly plugs the middle of the room. There is a couple hundred feet where it is quite easy to stumble, not because of a tricky floor, but rather because your attention is diverted exclusively to the ceiling.

We reluctantly decided to head back to the entrance, knowing that we had a long drive ahead of us. The trip back from the First Formation Room to the entrance was accomplished in less than 15 minutes, now that we knew the route. We emerged to a pleasant 50-degree day. Paxton’s was my 200th new-to-me cave, which in itself made the trip nice. Additionally, it was made even better that I got to share this moment with the person who started and fostered my love for caving.

P.S.

For those that haven’t been to Paxton’s, I really do encourage you to go. It was a great cave. HOWEVER, do NOT go without a map or someone who knows the cave. Make sure to do frequent headcounts. Make sure to bring plenty of food, water and lighting. If you are careless, this cave could turn on you pretty quickly.

-Shawn

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A fraction of the helictites in the First Formation Room (PC: Clint Hogbin)



Clint in the back of the First Formation Room (PC: Shawn Hogbin)



Clint Hogbin standing over a pit near the Breakdown Room (PC: Shawn Hogbin)

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Clint at the entrance (PC: Shawn Hogbin)



Formations in the Big Room (PC: Clint Hogbin)



Shawn at the Entrance (PC: Clint Hogbin)



CAVIN CALENDAR

JANUARY 6TH - FEBRUARY 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 6 Ridgewalk Whittings Neck area-see Bob	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9  Meeting 7pm	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12
Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19
Jan 20	Jan 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	Jan 22	Jan 23	Jan 24  TSG BIRTHDAY Peanut Butter Day	Jan 25	Jan 26
Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 GROUND HOG DAY
Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9
Feb 10	Feb 11	Feb 12	 Meeting 7pm	Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16

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Jones Quarry (by Cheryl Suitor)



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