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** The photo on this month's cover was taken by new member Ashby Haines in Whitings Neck Cave.

**** 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 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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SEP 11 --- T₃G meeting – 7pm

JUN 5 --- Whitings Neck area dig – 3pm – see John

- Come when you can

JUN 6 ---- National Caves & Karst 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 19 --- Vertical session – James Rumsey – 6pm

JUN 20 --- WV Day

JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE

JUN 26 --- Wed Night Caving – Dam #4 Cave – 6pm – Very good beginner cave

JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY

JUL 6 ---- FRG summer picnic – 11am

JUL 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

JUL 12-14 --- WVACS Classic

JUL 13 --- TSG Picnic – 12 Noon – C&O Canal Campsite #8 – Same place as last year

JUL 17 --- Vertical session – James Rumsey – 6pm

JUL 18 ---- HOT DOG DAY

JUL 19-21 --- Karst-O-Rama - Great Saltpeter Cave Preserve, Mt Vernon, KY

JUL 24 --- Wed Night Caving – Crystal Grottoes Caverns – 6pm – We will use our headlamps so lights in cavern will not be turned on - NO OFF-TRAIL TRIPS!!!

JUL 25 --- National Carousel Day

JUL 28 ---- PARENT'S DAY

JUL 31 --- Dig in Whitings Neck area – 3pm – Come when you can

AUG 2-4 --- Indiana Cave Capers, Marengo, IN

AUG 12 --- National Middle Child Day

AUG 13 --- Left Handers 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

AUG 31 --- Polyester Power Hour – 1pm

AUG 31 --- WVASS meeting – 630p

SEP 1 ---- OTR Yard Sale - 9am

SEP 1 ---- River Party – 1pm

SEP 2 ---- LABOR DAY

SEP 11 --- 9-11 SEP 26-29 --- Fall VAR, Friars Hole

OCT 9 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

OCT 14 --- Columbus Day

OCT 19 --- Bridge Day

OCT 30 --- Devil's Night

OCT 31 --- All Hallow Eve (Halloween)

NOV 1 --- Day of the Dead

NOV 3 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

SEP 20-22 --- Fall MAR – Shippensburg, PA

NOV 11 --- Veterans Day

NOV 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

***** 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 MAY ----- \$28.02

TOTAL TO DATE: -----\$7223.16

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 <u>http://nss2017.caves.org/</u>
OTR <u>www.otr.org/</u>
MAR <u>www.caves.org/region/mar/</u>
WVCC <u>www.wvcc.net/</u>
Bob's Web Site www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
Jerry's Cave Web Site
http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/



MONTH OF MAY

Carl Amundson, Eric Berge, Stephen Bowen, Journey Cosey, JC Fisher, Doyle Garvin, Chase Griffin, Lucas Hanson, Elysia, Mathias, Pat Minnick, Meredith Smith





TSG Meeting (13 people in attendance) 5/8/2019

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 April 10, 2019.

Committee Report: Hyper Tough Headlamp has an upgrade from 200 to 500 lumens. A new 200

lumen unit recently replaced a worn-out headlamp.

The large tent poles are still being refurbished hopefully in time for OTR.

New Business: WVDNR made contact with John to recruit TSG members to inspect sinkholes and caves. They also offered manpower and machinery such as tractors for said projects. In Mercer County this is an up-coming clean-up project towards the end of summer which offers compensation with possibilities to cave.

Crystal Grottoes Caverns has excepted July 24 as a Wednesday night caving event, which will begin a 6:00 pm. This is a fine opportunity to visit the TSG passage.

A visit to Molers Cave is planned for August. Rock climbing on the C&O canal will replace this month's James Rumsey climbing event. There will be an opportunity to visit local caves also. Spring VAR participants included John, Todd, Jerry and family members, amongst others. There was a visit to New River Cave.

<u>Old Business:</u> The Grottoes Annual Picnic is set for Saturday, July the thirteenth, optimistically at the same place as last year.

Jerry Downs of Crystal Grottoes Cavern is in search of employees to tour guide, do assorted maintenance and flyer advertisement.

http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com/

Plans for future Wednesday night caving events are as followed: Dam #4 Cave, Fox Skull Cave, Big Column Cave, Baker Caverns in

Pennsylvania, among others.

Big Column Cave was selected as the next Wednesday night caving.

A Wednesday night event calendar suggests the following:

Second Wednesday of the month is TSG's grotto meeting.

Third Wednesday is caving starting at six pm. Fourth Wednesday climbing class.

First Wednesday is digging for new caves, time starting at three in the afternoon with an open arrival time for anyone wishing to participate later. Digs are in the Jefferson/Berkley county area.

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A report was given on a local Wednesday dig with great potential.

There was a pronouncement during the meeting that the property of the Lower Nestle Quarry Cave should come to a conclusion involving parking or caving in the area.

Poor Farm Cave gate repair and caving will be held on May 18th and 19th. Contact either Tom Griffin or Bob Bennett for further information. Homer Fill Pit excavation will be held on May the 25th with the 26th as a rain date backup. An honorary membership was granted to the owner of Hollow Hill for his compliance and participation concerning the use of his property. MAKC sent a thank you letter for helping with the Silers Cave project. Over twenty TSG members participated and were awarded with not only food and libations, but a tee shirt.

MAKC is in the process of purchasing Sarah's Furnace Cave in Pennsylvania.

<u>Trips:</u> Doc, Adam, and Jerry amongst others entered Siler's Cave once it was opened. John and company traveled further into New River Cave on this visit then the last VAR held in the fall of 2018.

Indian River Cave was selected for Wednesday night caving with Johnny and Willow Robinson's group including John, Doc, and Adam. Seems like the goat trail going to the cave is not that intimidating thanks to the return of shrubbery and foliage.

Cave Bucks: \$28.02 was collected.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted Donald 'Doc' Phillips / 32922 Secretary Tri-State Grotto of the NSS



Carpenters Pit, Hardy County, W. Va. by Terry McClanathan (NSS 12103)

Sometime way back in the mid 1970's I came across a reference in William E. Davies Caverns of West Virginia to a Carpenters Pit in Hardy County. The description said it was "110 feet deep". At this fairly early stage in my caving career I was methodically checking out any pits which Davies reported as being in the hundred-foot range. Some turned out to be pretty nice pits such as Cabble (p. 80, Davies) and Curry (p. 12 of supplement, Davies). Both of these were slightly in excess of 100 feet deep. I was skeptical regarding Carpenters due to its location in Hardy, a county not known for deep pits. Never-the-less I resolved to visit it.

The topo location put me in an area of small shallow sinks, but I found no openings. Could the entrance have collapsed and be in one of these sinks? Such was my conclusion at the time. About ten years later I came across an article in a Speleodigest containing a map and a description of the pit by Tri-State grotto members Bob Bennett, J. C. and Judy Fisher, and Chuck Stanley. The map indicated the entrance drop to be 77' and the cave 90' deep. That at least verified my suspicion that Carpenters wasn't actually a hundred-foot pit, so I kinda put this information on the back burner and basically forgot about it for the next thirty years.

When I joined the Tri-State Grotto one of the first things that I did was to query Bob and J. C. about Carpenters Pit. They told me that a local (friend or relative of J. C.'s I think) had taken them to the pit in the early 80's. They had a harrowing encounter with a careening log but otherwise survived and mapped the pit. Shortly after this Bob attempted to relocate the pit primarily for my benefit but without success. Towards the end of our search I did happen upon an area with quite a few interesting looking sinks, but it was getting late in the day so I didn't have time to check them thoroughly.

Fast forward a couple more years and Bob was taking me to some small caves in the vicinity of Carpenters. We had a few extra daylight hours late in the afternoon so I thought it would be a good opportunity to have a better look around those sinks. However, in the interim Corridor H had been

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built, and what was once a county road accessing the area was now a cutoff private lane that was gated. Bob stayed at the gate just in case someone showed up and wanted to know what we were doing there, while I hiked down the drive to have a look at the sinks. A good portion of the valley you walk back was now a long tunnel under Corridor H. I checked all the sinks but still had nothing to show for the effort.

After three unsuccessful attempts I was getting a bit discouraged. George Dasher was working on finishing up the Hardy County survey, and I thought he might have more up to date information, so I had a conversation with him regarding Carpenters at the WVACS fieldhouse one evening about six months ago. He gave me the name of a once local (to Hardy County) caver by the name of Marvin Hardy. I contacted Marvin and he gave me coordinates that did not match the lat/long in Davies. As I'd already checked Davies location to no avail, the new coordinates were somewhat encouraging. Also, we are now in the age of GPS (well some of us are anyhow) so I recruited Shawn Hogbin (who's very competent at using GPS as opposed to I who am not) and we went over for search #4. At Bob's suggestion we parked along Corridor H (not really an interstate so roadside parking not an issue) which negated the need to hike down the gated road and walk through the long tunnel, thus eliminating a lot of the walk. Unfortunately, the "new" coordinates took us to the same place we had searched with Bob several years earlier. Failed effort # 4. As compensation to Shawn who had driven down from Morgantown at my behest, we visited Beethoven's Symphony and had a nice, but quick tour of this interesting Hardy County cave.

I told Marvin that we found nothing in that area and he was surprised, insisting that the location he'd given me should have been good. He also refuted my suggestion that perhaps the pit had collapsed or been filled in, which after being thwarted four times was my thinking. He said he'd been there in the 80's (must have been THE decade for visiting Carpenters Pit) and had made a detailed sketch map of the topography, however, this was not presently in his possession. He thought he'd sent it with some old papers to his daughter's home for storage and said he would try to find it for me. He was as good as his word and within a week had sent me his

records. I sent the new (and hopefully improved) coordinates to Shawn and he reported that they were quarter mile away from any of the other places we'd already checked. Once again, encouraging, so effort # 5 was quickly planned for a week-night evening at the end of last April.

Gordy Ley of Franklin County Grotto joined us for this, the final attempt come #% &? or high water, that I was planning to invest in this so far nonproductive endeavor. For the record I have never spent so much time trying to find any pit, and with no positive results. At the parking area we ran into some morrel hunters, the oldest of whom said he had seen the hole we were looking for many years ago, but it was far away, small, and hard to find. Marvin's most recent coordinates soon took us past the small hollow we had looked in on all four previous trips. Okay, so far, so good. Using his GPS Shawn lead us to a second hollow. After a few hundred yards more Shawn halted where point said here, but there was nothing there. Not to be too discouraged, we spread out to do a little ridge walking. Well, I suppose Shawn and Gordy did, as for me I soon blundered into a nice patch of morrels and my search mode deviated.

Near dark, truthfully I'd given up but was delighted to have a hat full of mushrooms, Shawn bo-ed us over to a point barely one hundred feet from where the GPS had first taken us. We'd all went the wrong way. Shawn had actually found the elusive Carpenters Pit. It was indeed a small hole in a very small sink and easy to miss. We wasted little time rigging and dropping it. There were no obstructions and the pit was a good match to the Tri-State map from the '80's. It was somewhat nicer than I expected, with very little mud. I had a hundred-foot rope tied to another rope just above the edge of the sink, and there was no more than five feet extra on bottom. This included a ten-foot offset below the main 77' pit. Finally, success!

As it turned out Bob (on the second attempt) had taken us to the right location, but in the wrong hollow. It was easy to see why, because the second hollow was a carbon copy of the first. I have made numerous similar mistakes myself (just ask Marion), and with far less than the excuse of a thirty-year time lapse. Thanks to everyone who played a part in this escapade, especially Marvin Hardy whom I've never actually met face to face,

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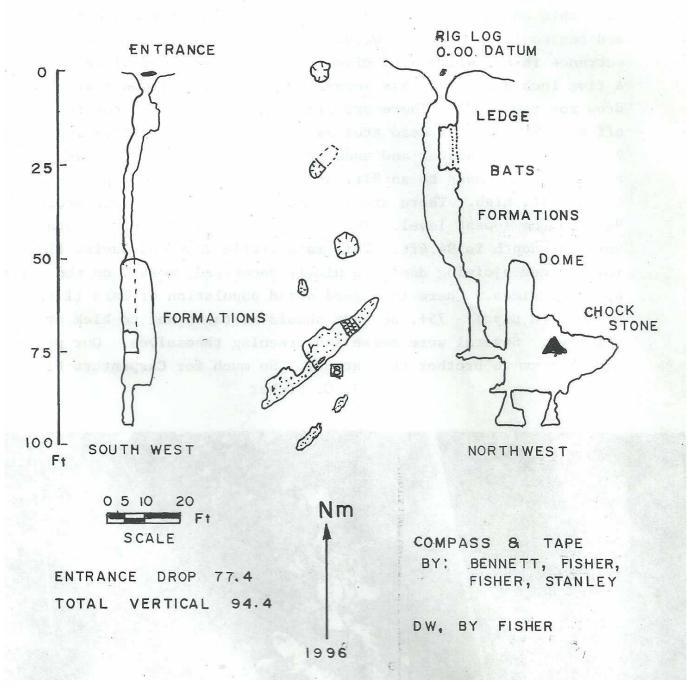
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CARPENTERS PIT

HARDY Co., W V 39°07'36"N 79°02'04"W



but whose records were impeccable. That Marvin was able to estimate the location from a topo map (decades before GPS) to within a hundred feet accuracy is really pretty amazing.



Entrance to Carpenters Pit.



Carpenters from the inside.



Terry preparing to rappel.



Near the bottom at the offset.



Terry looking down from the top of the pit, (All photos by Gordon Ley)

A poem about a cave!

"New Cave"
By Jenna Imes

Sinking deep into the ground,

Climbing, crawling, and digging we push thru,

Into the darkness, a cave brand new.

Seeing things never seen before,

Makes us eagerly search for more.

Passing thru this beautiful space,

It's hard to imagine that no one else has seen this place.

Seeing Beauty in every direction.

The silence is entrancing for a caver's soul,

Hard to believe this is just a hole!





Madison Saltpeter Cave (Photo by David Lucas)



Micah and James found a new friend in Tawneys Cave, our only Saturday trip. (Photo by Jerry Bowen)



James sliding into the entrance of Links Cave, the second one on Friday. (Photo by Jerry Bowen)



Micah and James in the stream passage of James' Cave.



Micah and James at the entrance to James' Cave. We did this cave first.



Smokey Bridge, Carter Caves State Park, Kentucky.



Natural Bridge, Carter Caves State Park, Kentucky.



Waterfall Cave, Carter Caves State Park, Kentucky. Mary B standing beside the waterfall.



Micah and James at Spring VAR. Camping in the truck? Not this time. A nice cabin. (Last 8 photos by Jerry Bowen)



gavin galenpar





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-	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5 Whitings Neck Area Dig 3pm	Jun 6 National Caves & Karst Day	Jun 7 Bubble Cave Wee kend	Jun 8 Bubble Cave Wee kend
	Jun 9 Bubble Cave Weekend	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12 TRI-STATE GROTTO Meeting 7pm	Jun 13	Jun 14	Jun 15
	Jun 16 Father's day	Jun 17 NSS Convention, Cookville, TN	Jun 18 NSS Convention, Cookville, TN	Jun 19 NSS Convention, Cookville, TN Vertical session, James Rumsey 6pm	Jun 20 NSS Convention, Cookville, TN WV DAY	Jun 21 NSS Convention, Cookville, TN SOLSTICE	Jun 22
	Jun 23	Jun 24	Jun 25	Jun 26 Wed Night Caving, Crystal Grottoes Cavern 6pm	Jun 27	Jun 28	Jun 29
	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4	Jul 5	Jul 6 FRG summer picnic 11 am
	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 10	Jul 11	Jul 12 WVACS Classic	Jul 13 WVACS Classic TSG picnic 12 noon

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Whitings Neck (Photo by Ashby Haines)



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